



GRENADA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

**First Session of the Tenth Parliament**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

---

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Attendance .....</b>	<b>3 – 4</b>
<b>Prayers .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Minutes .....</b>	<b>5 – 6</b>
<b>Announcements .....</b>	<b>6 – 7</b>
<b>Papers / Reports .....</b>	<b>7 – 8</b>
<b>Statements by Ministers .....</b>	<b>8 – 71</b>
<b>Motions .....</b>	<b>71 – 90</b>
<b>Bills .....</b>	<b>90 – 93</b>
<b>Adjournment .....</b>	<b>94 – 96</b>

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Attendance**

**PRESENT**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Honourable Michael Pierre, MP, MBE   | - Mr. Speaker (In the Chair)  |
| Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith Mitchell, PC, MP, JP<br>(St. George North-West) | - Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology, Finance, Planning, Economic Development and Physical Development |
| Honourable Gregory Bowen, MP<br>(St. George South-East)                      | - Minister for Infrastructure Development, Public Utilities, Energy, Transport and Implementation   |
| Honourable Alvin Da Breo, MP<br>(St. John)                                   | - Minister wrf Forestry and Fisheries   |
| Honourable Peter David, MP<br>(Town of St. George)                           | - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Labour   |
| Honourable Yolande Bain-Horsford, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-West)              | - Minister for Agriculture and Lands  |
| Honourable Oliver Joseph, MP<br>(St. David)                                  | - Minister for Trade, Industry, Co-operatives and CARICOM Affairs   |
| Honourable Kate Lewis, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-East)                         | - Minister wrf Youth Development  |
| Honourable Pamela Moses<br>(St. Patrick East)                                | - Minister wrf Tertiary Education, Skills Development and Education Outreach  |
| Honourable Kindra Maturine-Stewart, MP<br>(Carriacou and Petite Martinique)  | - Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Local Government and Legal Affairs  |
| Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP<br>(St. Andrew South-East)                     | - Minister for Education, Human Resource Development and Religious Affairs  |
| Honourable Nickolas Steele, MP<br>(St. George South)                         | - Minister for Health, Social Security and International Business   |
| Honourable Delma Thomas, MP<br>(St. Andrew North-West)                       | - Minister for Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment  |
| Honourable Anthony Boatswain, MP<br>(St. Patrick West)                       | - Deputy Speaker  |

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Attendance**

Honourable Tobias Clement, MP  
(St. George North-East)

- Member

**ABSENT**

Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP  
(St. Mark)

- Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Prayers  
Minutes*

**The Sitting began at 9:10 a.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, let us pray.

**(House Prayer was said)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Please join with me, as we say, together, the Lord's Prayer.

**(The Lord's Prayer was said)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Pray be seated.

**(Sound of Bell)**

**Mr. Speaker:** This Honourable House is now in Session.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 3 - Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new  
Member.

Item 4 - Confirmation Minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Grenada Trade Centre on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018, be taken as read.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Minutes**

**Announcements**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the said Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Grenada Trade Centre on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 be confirmed.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 5 - Messages from the Governor-General.

Item 6 - Announcements by Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, I greet you well, and I welcome you to the First Session of the Tenth Parliament of the House of Representatives. I take this opportunity to thank you, Honourable Members for the opportunity you have given me, to serve for a second term, as Speaker of this Honourable House. I am humbled by your show of confidence in me. I give thanks to Almighty God for his guidance over the past term, and seek His continued grace and blessings on every Member of this Honourable House for their future, as we perform the task of serving the people of this dear Nation.

Honourable Members, the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique has given you the mandate to govern the country for another term. They will be the evaluators of your performance in the House and the delivery of your service to the Constituents you are chosen to represent. The task given to you will not be an easy one, expectations would be high. The demand, will, at times be greater than you are able to meet by yourselves. When those occasions arrive, remember in whose step you walk. The solution may be one step, or one prayer away. I urge you do not be afraid, the 'I Am Team' is waiting for your call.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Announcements  
Papers / Reports**

The Constituents of this Nation has decided to ensure gender balance in the delivery of their business in this Honourable House. Grenada can now say that it has exceeded the UN and Commonwealth call for more women in Governance. Grenada has exceeded the two-thirds of women in Parliament, and has reached close to 50%, 47%, an achievement for which we must be justly proud. We are sure that your service to this Nation would be applauded.

To the returning Members of this Honourable House, I say to you, congratulations, and I look forward to the continued relationship that has been developed over the past years. To the new Members, a special welcome to you; I look with anticipation to your active participation in the activities of this Honourable House. I urge you to ensure that you become acquainted with the House of Representatives Standing Orders. This is the document that would guide the function and the decorum of this Honourable House. Please make it a close friend of yours, while you are in the House. We would be ensuring that we go by the Standing Orders, so the timing and the deliberations would all be guided by what is written in the Standing Orders.

I have also made it known that you are free, and we want you to get acquainted with coming to the House with your Laptop, or your Tablet or... (what is the other name they call them) **(Comments from the floor)** the iPad, or your whatever, because you see we have to get in tuned with the technology, and very soon the Standing Orders would be amended, to make it part of the Parliament Procedures. So, Honourable Members, again, I say, welcome and may God guide and protect you.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 7 - Presentation of Petitions  
Item 8 - Presentation of Papers and Reports from  
Select Committees.

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Papers / Reports  
Statements by Ministers**

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Papers and Reports be laid on the Table.

- (i). Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Grenada National Training Agency for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.
- (ii). Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Office of the Ombudsman for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.
- (iii). Grenada Investment Development Corporation, 2016 Annual Report.
- (iv). Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance held at the Ministry of Works Conference Room on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, and, finally,
- (v). The 2018 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, these Reports and Papers are laid on the Table.

- Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 9 - Unopposed Private Business.  
Item 10 - Questions.  
Item 11 - Urgent Questions under the Provision of Standing Order No. 20(1) (Notice of Questions).  
Item 12 - Statements by Ministers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Member for St. Andrew North-West.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

**Hon. Delma Thomas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give a renewed update on the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment. But, before I go into the Ministerial Statement, Mr. Speaker, I ask of you to give me one minute to thank the people who have placed the confidence and trust in me to have me here, as a Member of Parliament. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, I want to, first, thank God, for giving me the opportunity to be here once again, as a Member of Parliament. I also want to thank the wonderful people of the Constituency of St. Andrew North-West, who have elected me in this history-making second term in Office, where the New National Party has returned, unopposed, 15-nil, Mr. Speaker; it speaks to hard work **(applause)** and dedication, Mr. Speaker, and it clearly states that performance beats ole talk all the time. And, therefore, Mr. Speaker, as their Parliamentary Representative, I am committed to continue serving them and working very hard to ensure that we develop St. Andrew North-West and the Tri-Island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment, we are in the process of restructuring the Ministry, though I am the Minister for the second term in Office, Mr. Speaker, it is not a status quo. We are not continuing business, as usual. And, therefore, we are ensuring that whatever we do within the Ministry, can assist the vulnerable people, within our Tri-Island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, despite of their political affiliation. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we are doing in the Ministry is establishing a Social Policy, Project and Planning Unit. So, we are doing our own small projects, understanding that there are lots of monies outside there for women, children and social issues, and, therefore, we have a small Unit there, which will tap into those resources, and, therefore, better able to serve the Tri-Island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers  
Motions**

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Project, at present, we are reviewing, to ensure that the people, who need the assistance, get the assistance, despite of their political affiliation. We are ensuring that when we give support to persons who need the assistance, it does not sit under their houses, and, therefore, there will be a Brigade, an established Brigade, in every Constituency, to use the material, to repair or build houses, within the fifteen (15) Constituencies, including Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping to start that new process sometime in June, and we also know that there a number of applications. Every Constituency has over five hundred (500) applications waiting, and there are some that got approved late last year and now waiting for delivery. And, therefore, they will be the first set to be delivered, when the project resumes, sometime in June.

SEED, Mr. Speaker, the Programme is going well, and there were miscommunication where they believed that the programme was on hold. However, this Programme is continuing as normal, and, therefore, I want to let beneficiaries know that this month your benefits will be available from the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month, and, therefore, in other months, the months ahead, we will ensure that we pay one week before the month ends, to avoid the hassle and bustle in the different Towns. We are committed to supporting the elderly citizens and the needy and vulnerable among our Community. We are also committed to ensuring that students are able to attend school, on a regular basis, whether or not the families have the need. Government has that commitment and we would continue to provide for those families.

Mr. Speaker, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, we had a Situation Analysis of Children into the Caribbean, which was held in Grenada, and Grenada's National Report was presented, and a National Action Plan drafted on the assessment of children. And, as a Government, we are committed to doing all in our power to ensure that our children are properly looked after, and we will be working to implement some of those projects. In

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

fact, we have already received some assistance from external funders, and we will be seeking additional funding to assist us in dealing with the issues that affect our children.

We are also, Mr. Speaker, reviewing and restructuring the Probation Unit, and there is a consultancy, which is supported by UNICEF. The strengthening of the Probation is a key requirement of the Juvenile Justice Act. Government has made a deliberate effort to strengthen the Juvenile Justice System, adding an additional eight (8) Probation Officers to ensure that we cover the entire Island. Shortly, we will be conducting training for those Officers, who are involved in the whole Juvenile Justice Programme.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Family Day, and, therefore, we want to wish all families a happy International Family Day. Within the Ministry, we have interviewed a very successful family, the Antoine family, the family of Sister Ursula Antoine, and we know the achievement of this family, and so we will be showcasing them, hoping to encourage other families to do likewise, and to work along with their children.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is promoting families, and that is why in this new dispensation, we will have a Men's Desk, also looking after the issue of men, because many times you hear about the issue of gender and family and girls and women were looked after in the past. And, therefore, we want to change that direction and that perception and ensure that we promote family, and, therefore, we would have a special Desk that involves Planning and Programming for our men.

Mr. Speaker, Community Empowerment has been added to the Ministry of Social Development and Housing and, therefore, it would not be as the Community Development for the past five (5) years. It would be one with a difference, where we would be working along in different communities across our Tri-Island State, to empower individuals. We would plan programmes to assist those vulnerable boys on the block, those girls, who need specific training.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, we know that Community Development was really aimed at empowering communities. We knew the number of Community Centres we

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

had in the past. They were not just there empty. I recalled, as a child, my father was involved in Community Development, and in those days, we had a lot of funding coming from external donors, and there were many improvements in different Constituencies and different villages, and, therefore, within the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment, we will be looking to revive the issue of community empowerment and bring community programming, utilizing every Community Centre, and, therefore, those new programmes will be revealed shortly.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I really want you to give me an additional minute, Mr. Speaker. I want to address an issue that doesn't directly falls within the Ministry of Social Development and Housing, but it is a social issue, and I feel obliged to speak on the issue of mental illness this morning.

Mr. Speaker, during the Election campaign, I remembered vividly, coming to Tanteen in a Rally, and the Opposition was going in the other direction to their Rally in St. Andrew, I believe. And, a gentleman, while we had a motorcade from Grenville coming with a number of other persons in the road, tried to shout to me, "your mother is in Mt. Gay, why you don't drop and go up there." He tried to embarrass me, or maybe that he thought. But, Mr. Speaker, mental illness is a disease that can affect any individual. It is a disease that causes mild to severe disturbances in the thought or behaviour, resulting in inability to cope with life's ordinary demand and routine. And, it is very, very prevalent in our Tri-Island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

In fact, just Sunday I visited the Mental Institution and the amount of young people, who are there, Mr. Speaker, we need to educate our population. We need to teach our families to be able to cope, because it is not easy for families to have to deal with the issue of mental illness, and there is no warning sign most of the time, or sometimes there are warning signs, but because we are not taught, we do not know how to address those warning signs. Just like cancer, diabetes and heart disease, mental illness is often physical, as well as emotional and psychological. And, I ask the

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Ministry of Health to have Educational Programmes, to educate people, that there is no stigma, no embarrassing situation about mental illness. Mental illness can affect anyone, despite of your political or any status in society, and, therefore, we have to provide the education to our population, so that they would not see it as a stigma, and therefore, families would be able to cope better. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Andrew North-West. We are glad to have you back in the House. Honourable Representative for St. Andrew South-East.

**Hon. Emmalin Pierre:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and let me also use the opportunity, as you would have welcomed us back, to also welcome you back to this Honourable Seat, and to say that I trust that you would continue to give the guidance that you have provided to this House and the leadership in this term in Office.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to also beg, and I am quite sure all my colleagues will do the same, to beg for the opportunity of a minute or two, just to express my heartfelt thank you to the people of St. Andrew South-East. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we can get carried away to think that we are here on our own doing. Mr. Speaker, the people of our various Constituencies are really the ones who have us all here. And, as a team, we recognise how valuable and how important they are, as people, who would have contributed to us being able to sit in this Honourable House. And, Mr. Speaker, this morning, I want to say a heartfelt thank you.

The people of St. Andrew South-East, Mr. Speaker, would not have been just people, who went to the various Polling Stations, on Election Day, and would have cast a vote on my behalf. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple years, we have been able to build a relationship that I think I can say at this point, Mr. Speaker, two (2) words that mark the way forward that would have been very instrumental in the past five (5) years, service and relationship.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, the people of St. Andrew South-East, we have been working together, and I want to make this pledge this morning, to them, that we are going to continue to work together, building the Constituency, meeting the needs of people. And, I want to say off the bat, Mr. Speaker, as I speak about needs, the needs are tremendous, needs including housing and so many others, need for employment. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the people of the Constituency, for understanding that all of the issues cannot be solved overnight, and they cannot be solved at the same time. And, so, Mr. Speaker, I continue to rely on their patience and their support, as we continue to work together.

Mr. Speaker, post General Elections, I was appointed, sworn in as Minister for Education, and I want to use this opportunity, as I have already done, publicly, to recognize the efforts of those who went before me. Mr. Speaker, particularly, in the most recent past, the Honourable Anthony Boatswain and Senator Simon Stiell, who would have held the position of Minister for Education, previously.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend them, because Education and leadership of Education in Grenada is, indeed, a challenge. The challenges, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they are so widespread, and I would speak to that, very shortly. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend their efforts, for the leadership of the team, and to commend all the members of staff that would have worked with them, over the years, to address many of those issues. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, we must continue, and we must pick up from where they would have stopped. I have been reviewing, personally, Mr. Speaker, a list of Priorities, which were identified by the previous Ministers, and the various work plans that were associated with those Priorities. And, Mr. Speaker, I have to say to you, where I stand now, that those issues, those Priorities have not changed, and we are going to continue to work on those, we are going to continue to push forward on what they have already achieved.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

But, I have to say, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that there is a perception. There is an existing perception, and I have seen it, I have heard it around the Island, as we continue to interact with stakeholders, a perception of the Ministry of Education. I will not stand here to say that none of those are real, but I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a breakdown, in terms of that relationship with stakeholders and I don't think I want to try to determine where that breakdown would have started.

But, I think, Mr. Speaker, the finger pointing; stakeholders at the Ministry, Ministry at the stakeholders, at some point we have to stop and decide that we are going to put all our hands down and we are going to try again, and over the past couple weeks, we have been engaging stakeholders. It has been a lot of finger pointing, but, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I believe the point we are at now, is a point where, together, we should say, let us stop blaming, let us come together in the interest of Education and to see what we can do as a team, meaning Ministry of Education and all of the stakeholders. So, we have been reviewing the goals and the objectives, the different strategic points within the Strategic Plan, and we have been continuing the work that would have been started by my colleagues. The CDB has offered. I also was told that UNICEF would have offered before, to provide some technical support, as it relates to Strategic Review of the Ministry's Programme and the way forward.

Thus far, Mr. Speaker, we have attempted to engage our major stakeholders, to sit down with them and to say, "yes, we understand that you would have challenges, you would have issues, the Ministry also has its own challenges and issues, even with stakeholders, and some of those, justifiably so."

But, Mr. Speaker, those stakeholders, we have said to them, that we want to start a new page. We want to start a new page of identifying the issues, but every party, making a greater commitment to addressing those issues, because a stakeholder; so, let us say, for example, a stakeholder, as in principle, sitting there and blaming the Ministry for everything, identifying the Ministry as the reasons all of the problems in Education exist, will not solve the problem, unless the Principal and the Ministry of

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Education decide let us cooperate closer, let us work harder, let us work closer together, those issues would remain. So, thus far, we have been able to sit down with NEWLO, Mr. Speaker, the leadership of NEWLO, the leadership of TAMCC, UWI, the GUT Executive, the NTA, the National Scholarship Selection Committee, Management and Staff of the Ministry, Principals, inclusive of Principals of Private Schools, Pre-Primary Schools, Primary and Secondary, Denominational Boards. And, Mr. Speaker, we continue that engagement and dialogue, as in uniting our efforts to address the issues of Education. Mr. Speaker, the issues now are not necessarily very new, and I am sure my colleagues would have identified those issues, as well, and would have started the process. Mr. Speaker, the concern for students' performance; that cry is extremely loud, particularly students' performance in Math and English.

Mr. Speaker, school infrastructure, as we have seen, that is a continued issue, and we continue to look at that, as a major concern raised by many of our stakeholders. Curriculum Review, another major issue raised during that process. School Management and Leadership; relationship, as I said before between Ministry of Education and stakeholders, stakeholders and Ministry of Education. Sensitisation of Scholarships Available, Mr. Speaker, that, again, too, is another issue that seems to be of great concern. Human Resource capacity, at the level of our schools at the level of the Ministry; greater focus on TVET and more support for the NTA, accreditation, expansion and development of our Tertiary Education Schools, so we're speaking TAMCC, we're also speaking to an extent NEWLO here. Mr. Speaker, but greatest of all I believe, is what do we want that ideal student, Grenadian student to be at the different levels of our education system?

CARICOM is also having that same discussion but the CARICOM citizen, Mr. Speaker, and that seems to be a burning point, a burning concern to so many of our people, what is happening to some of our students within our education system? Those that are being left behind, those that might not be very academically inclined, how are we catering for them even more. Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I do not believe any of

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

those issues are new issues. The work would have started and again I commend my colleagues, those who have gone before us and to give our commitment to them that we are going to continue the work that they would have started with greater engagement of our stakeholders and helping our stakeholders to understand, Ministry of Education cannot do it by itself. We all have to put our hands on deck, we all have to commit, we all have to pledge that we are going to do the best we can in our different capacities at all levels of our education system. So Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty excited about this, I'm extremely optimistic about the possibilities ahead of us and I make this appeal through you, Mr. Speaker, to call on all of our stakeholders, let us continue to work together in the interest of education and our children. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Andrew South-East; your task has been cut out for you. Honourable Representative for St. George South.

**Hon. Nickolas Steele:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And let me start by congratulating you on your return to that Seat and that position, all though you ceremonially resisted. **(Laughter)** But to see it as an endorsement of the good work you did in the last Sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I too would like to beg your indulgence for a short time to pay tribute to the electorate of South St. George in particular, for giving me the very daunting and humbling task of representing them in this Honourable House. It truly is an endorsement of the service or the desire to serve one's country having been accepted by them in a short space of time after moving from the town of St. George.

So, Mr. Speaker, I recognise that it is because of them that I am here, that it is because of them that I stand today to give a Ministerial Report and I want to thank them all, not just those who gave me their support at the ballot box but all, because it is all

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

that I support and it is through those who are critical and will criticise that I will find the strength in this House to represent fairly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to now give a report on the Ministry of Health, Social Security and International Business. Mr. Speaker, let me start with laying out the work programme for this year coming, this budgetary period and to start, yes in particular order with respect to priority. Priority one right now is the monitoring and delivering of the National Health Insurance as committed to the people by this Government. Mr. Speaker, we have received the deliverables from the University of the West Indies Consultancy Team, as well as, from the Actuarial Team of Morneau Shepell; so the two parts the major parts of the puzzle have been delivered to us. The Actuarial Review has given the options and choices with respect to how to fund the National Health Insurance and the University of the West Indies Consultancy Team has given the basket of services which are, what services will be provided and covered or can be provided and covered by National Health Insurance.

The governing structure of the National Health Insurance, as well as, the administrative structure and also to be delivered within the next month is the legislative structure which I look forward to coming to this Honourable House and hopefully have the passage of that Legislation that will enact. That Legislator quite likely will also entail adjustments to the current NIS Legislation as we have received the mandate that the NIS in some form or fashion will be the administrator of our National Health Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, the work done to date on the National Health Insurance by the Secretariat, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Implementation, the various consultants, UWI and Morneau Shepell and the NIS, is funded by IPISA or the India, Brazil and South Africa Bank and overseen by the United Nations Development, UNDP. So, Mr. Speaker, we have made sure that from the beginning, we have received the accreditation, the monitoring and the support of regional and international entities as we implement our National Health Insurance.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, the other priority is the strengthening of our Primary Healthcare System; this goes hand in hand with a National Health Insurance as well. It is in our districts, in our villages, in our towns that we must first address the issue of healthcare. In fact, the term used currently is universal health coverage; health coverage for all, regardless of ability to afford and also regardless of whether somebody is covered under a National Health Insurance or not, that there must be healthcare coverage. So Mr. Speaker, in strengthening the Primary Healthcare System we will be revisiting some of the existing protocols, how people are treated, when they are treated, who treats them and we will also be establishing more importantly two test districts for Wellness Councils. Mr. Speaker, prevention is always, always, not just cheaper but more advisable than cure. And while we are seeing an increase in the region and in fact worldwide in non-communicable diseases, blood pressure, heart attacks, sugar, these are lifestyle diseases and can be addressed in the very districts and villages first and foremost to prevent individuals getting to the level when they would need healthcare, but instead beginning to offer them as early as possible, healthy care or lifestyle care.

So, the Ministry of Health will be embarking on that, we have heard our Prime Minister in his inaugural message and we have heard the people in terms of their needs and how to address them. Mr. Speaker, also this year within the next couple of months, will be the publication of the approved structure of services and the rates for those services. So, Mr. Speaker, for many years, Ministry of Health and its various entities, General Hospital and various District Medical Offices are supposed to be charging for services, almost all services are supposed to be paid for with a structure as well in place for those who cannot afford to pay, that they will be allowed that access to healthcare. Because we believe in the mandate that, healthcare must be affordable and accessible, in particular, accessible to those who cannot afford. That is the very principle of the National Health Insurance, but it's the very principle even before and as we continue. But we have to start charging and we believe the time is right, now, to begin that implementation, having the structures in place with the Ministry of Health through Social

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Workers to allow individuals who cannot afford to receive those services, but to have those who can pay for those services and many, many Grenadians have come forward to myself and to various members of the Health Sector saying, that they are willing and able to pay for certain services. So, Mr. Speaker, that will be listed, we will start charging but that will come almost in tandem or in sync with the implementation of a National Health Insurance, so that individuals will know what it is that they're supposed to be paying for, what those charges are and therefore what the cost are covered by a National Health Insurance as we move forward, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, also for this to happen, another piece of this puzzle, so to speak, is as I have spoken about it in this House, electronic medical records. That which cannot be measured, cannot be improved, but in particular for the implementation of National Health Insurance and going forward with the principle of the Universal Health Coverage, we need to have electronic medical records in Grenada that will allow us as a Ministry to know every Grenadian who is treated, what they are treated for, when they are treated and also that those Grenadians can have those records themselves so that they can move from one area to another, from one level of service to another with their records.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are 70% complete with that, we begin the installation in the General Hospital and Princess Alice Hospital in the next couple of weeks, the various districts that were identified have already had electronic medical records implemented. So we move forward with that.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we'll be looking at upgrading our various IT infrastructures at Health Centres. So some Health Centres did not have electronic medical records implemented because of the lack of the IT structure there. In some cases it may be simply access to the right bandwidth of internet. In other cases, it is the actual hardware that needed to be implemented, so we are going through those District Medical Offices and Health Centres and making sure that all will be covered within the next three or four months with the right IT infrastructure, so that we can implement the

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

electronic medical records, so the system is connected, so that there is accountability and greater efficiency for the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, refurbishment of physical Primary Healthcare Centres continues. That is an ongoing and I will daresay, should be a never ending process. We should always be seeking to improve the Primary Healthcare Clinics throughout the Nation. After we have built and I am looking forward to the Gouyave Polyclinic, we need to revisit all of the others as we are doing now and making the various improvements. We have been grateful to receive assistance through DIFID for the smarting of some of our healthcare facilities, which is making them more climate resilient to the impacts of a natural disaster, that they can last independent of the rest of the Island; survive with water, electricity etcetera and the actual physical structure.

So we continue that process in our various Primary Healthcare facilities, as well as, with Princess Alice and Princess Royal in Carriacou. So, Mr. Speaker, after that in terms of physical upgrading of facilities we look forward to **(Time Bell rings)**. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if I can get a couple more minutes; healthcare is and continues to be an extremely important issue on people's minds.

**Mr. Speaker:** Okay we will give you one more minute.

**Hon. Nickolas Steele:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to moving in within this period too, to Phase II of the General Hospital which is accident and emergency, labs and teaching and also beginning a structural assessment of the Phase I General Hospital and visiting whatever areas and addressing whatever areas that have been identified, that's structural and electrical of the Phase I. So, major renovations; repairs and maintenance of the Phase I; as well as, beginning the construction of Rathdune or reconstruction of the Rathdune, which is currently housing Accident and Emergency.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to also procuring at least, in this year, at least two more ambulances; it's a constant upgrade, as well as, replacement process that we have embarked on and coming to this very House, Mr. Speaker, to enact Tobacco Legislation, as well as, enacting Mental Health Legislation, Mr. Speaker. So I look forward to the support of my colleagues in the passage of those various Bills when they come to this House. I also look forward to giving my colleague in Environment the support in the passing of Legislations or Regulations with respect to styrofoam use, Mr. Speaker and plastics.

Mr. Speaker, review of the Hospital Board is also on the agenda, as well as, conducting human resource assessments and I'm proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have maintained our promise and continue going further. But the nurses that were employed contractually under GRENCASE and we said as soon as we had the ability to, we would regularise them, Mr. Speaker, as of the last week we have begun, and if not totally completed that process of regularising those nurses who were on the GRENCASE system. **(Applause)** We keep our promises as we are strengthening healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to strengthen environment vector control, being sensitive to the climatic changes worldwide and that that vector borne diseases become more and more of a threat. As well as, Mr. Speaker, in the area of International Business, focusing on what the people consider to be important and how they measure our performance which is the doing business ratio, working with CAIPO, working with Ministry of Works or Implementation and various other Ministries to make sure that our doing business ranking continues to improve, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me the time and the additional time and the leeway to also thank my constituents. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for South St. George.  
Honourable Representative for St. David.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

**Hon. Oliver Joseph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too want to congratulate you on your return as Speaker. I am sure that this is because of your performance in the last term. Also to the people of St. David; as you know, Mr. Speaker, Election is about choice and we presented a team that the people in Grenada considered the best team to run this country for a next five years and therefore that's why all fifteen seats were taken by the New National Party. **(Applause)**

And we have learnt Mr. Speaker, that power really lies in the hands of the people; we go to the people and ask them to support us and they are the ones by their vote that ensure that I am back here representing the largest constituency, that is St. David. Some people have called for the division in the constituency to be divided into north and south. I hope that consideration would be given because it stretches from Mardigras to Lambert Bridge Crochu, fifty-two (52) villages, fourteen thousand, six hundred people (14,600), eight thousand, seven hundred (8,700) registered voters, so Mr. Speaker, you know it's a huge task, so when the people in the constituency who have not yet received any help, any assistance, I want to appeal to them to be... to have some patience with me, because this time we will do things better, a more organised, a more structured way to ensure that the benefits that we have to give to uplift the standard of living because that is really the aim of Government, to lift the standard of living of the people of the citizens of this country and therefore we will work hard to ensure that the resources go in that direction to lift people out of poverty, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, also, having been elected and then selected by the Prime Minister to be in the Cabinet and given the responsibility of Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and CARICOM Affairs, Mr. Speaker, it is a portfolio that will transform the economy. As you will notice, Industry has been added and the purpose for adding Industry to the portfolio is to ensure that there is some focus at developing local industries and a lot of emphasis will be placed at small businesses. As you know Mr. Speaker, the problem with small business is access to finance. The bank is very liquid

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

and I always will make that point; very liquid, Mr. Speaker, but they are not lending to Small Micro Enterprises because in their estimation, the risk is high. But what risk you're talking about, when they only want twenty five thousand (\$25,000) and you lending millions of dollars to big Corporations that fail, but you talking about 25,000 and looking at the risk. So, this Government, over the last five (5) years, put over eight million dollars (\$8 m) into small business, created jobs, created employment, a lot of self-employed people created their own business, Mr. Speaker, you would see that continuing. This term, more money would be placed into small business to help our small business people create opportunities in this country. And I think this is the right direction, this is the direction we need to go. The Government cannot provide all the jobs and therefore we must facilitate business, we must assist business to grow and to develop and therefore the Industry portfolio, Mr. Speaker, is very focused in that direction.

In the area of Trade, Mr. Speaker, we have launched last year the Export Strategy. Implementation of this Export Strategy would be given top priority because the basis for the export strategy is to ensure that we could increase our export. As you know, when you increase export, you increase foreign exchange earnings, you create employment and therefore this export strategy is very detailed. It's a very detailed document with an implementation plan and a road map of how we're going to achieve what is in this document. Already, the Ministry started consultation with various stakeholders in the implementation of the National Export Strategy.

One of the areas which emphasis will be placed on, Mr. Speaker, is trade in services, because that is a new area you know, Mr. Speaker. Trade in services in the previous WTO Agreement concentrated only at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and in negotiations for a new agreement, there is an agreement called GATTS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) because services trade contribute a very large portion of trade in the world and we too as a service country will concentrate heavily and trade in services and in developing the Services Sector.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

In order to do that, Mr. Speaker, training will be given priority so that our young people can get into jobs in the Services Sector. So if you look at yachting, marine and yachting, Mr. Speaker, that's an area that we need to train our young people in because we have a lot of yachts now coming to Grenada for service and other skillsets that are required to work in that industry and therefore in order for our young people to take advantage of this opportunity they must be trained. Prior to this, what you find happening, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the services statistics it capture mainly tourism. So I had ask ECLAC to do a study on Non-Tourism Services Sector, because the focus was capturing mainly tourism and so we have that study of the non-tourism services sector where it is very clear where the emphasis need to be placed and therefore in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, NTA and so on, we will focus on the skillsets that are needed in these various areas.

In other words, we have to take a holistic view in trading based on the studies that have been done. You know sometime, Mr. Speaker, a lot of studies have been done and it's just there, this, as I said, this one is different because we have an implementation plan, a road map and all the Sectors that need to be involved. So the National Export Strategy and the Services Sector will be given priority and we can measure the success. So what the Ministry have done for the next six months, put out the priority, what it is we want to achieve and for the next six months and the year and as we go forward, I can come back here, Mr. Speaker, and report on the achievement of the Ministry based on the various Sectors that we will be investing in.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this new term as I said, it will be very focused, because sometimes we come and we present the Budget, we present other documents and talk about big plans and it's always good to look at outcomes, what have you achieved after one year, after two years? Just like, Mr. Speaker, when we went through the Structural Adjustment Programme, where you have targets set, economic targets to meet, so you could come back and say, yes, well we have met this target, because there were macro-economic targets, Debt to GDP Ratio was met, with the Wage Bill to current

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

revenue and all these things. I think it is a good approach to take if we could put down what are the targets and the targets can be measurable so we know when we attain this target, I think with that sort of approach, which is evidence based approached, would be very helpful as we go forward in determining our level of achievement.

In the area of Cooperatives, the Department already started having Caravan around the Island to bring awareness because Cooperatives can provide employment for our people. We need to look at the Laws governing Cooperatives because they have not really been as successful as we would like them to be. So the Laws talks about having a minimum of ten (10) persons to form Cooperatives and how the financial records should be kept and so on and we find a lot of them fail after about a year or so and therefore I have asked ECLAC to do a study of the Cooperatives Sector. Maybe our approach needs to be different to really get Cooperatives going because they can make a big impact if you have functioning Cooperatives in the various areas. So we need to understand the reason why and therefore the Ministry has commissioned a study and then from that we will look at the recommendations coming out of the study so that we will know exactly where to focus. Since the Division... you had once the Cooperative Division that looked at financial and non-financial Cooperatives and then later on, you had the separation where GARFIN was established to control the financial Cooperatives, the Credit Unions and so on and then the non-financial, it was left in the Department of Cooperatives, looking at the Fishermen Cooperatives, Furniture Cooperatives and so on. And because the emphasis is on more now the financial Cooperatives, like the non-financial got lost in this whole mix and therefore we have strengthened the Cooperatives Department and have education and training officers and field officers that's now out in the field there meeting with people, especially among the youths talking to young people to form Cooperatives as a means of establishing their business. And a lot of emphasis would be at creating new Cooperatives and also working with the established ones to guide them to give support in whatever way,

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

whether its technical or financial support to the existing Cooperatives so that they can grow and develop.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of CARICOM Affairs, as you know the biggest single project undertaken by CARICOM is the CSME (CARICOM Single Market and Economy) and there is work in progress with respect to the single economy, with respect to the single market that is...

**(Time Bell Rings)**

**Mr. Speaker:** I will permit you one more minute.

**Hon. Oliver Joseph:** Yes, so we are working together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Foreign Affairs in looking through the single market and working toward the single economy. As you know, with the free movement of people throughout CARICOM with the skills certificate, it is one of the biggest achievement, and just Sunday the CCJ ruled on a matter in Barbados where CARICOM national was denied the right to vote, Mr. Speaker, and they met on Sunday, because today is the closing day for registration and the court ruled that by Monday, the next day, they had to register the thing because they had a right to vote as CARICOM nationals **(applause)**.

I am happy that Barbados is a member of the CCJ in this Appellate Jurisdiction; even though, Mr. Speaker, you have to wait to go, election would have come and go you know, before you reach in the Privy Council; you see the benefit of the CCJ, but that is for a next debate. **(Laughter)** So, you give me one more minute, so Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. David. Honourable Representative for St. Andrew South-West.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

**Hon. Yolande Bain-Horsford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too, like my other colleagues, want to welcome you back as Speaker of this Honourable House. I think you must have done a good job, that's why you are being placed back. I want to thank you for your guidance over the period and your continued guidance.

Mr. Speaker, the trust and confidence of the people of St. Andrew's South-West has once again afforded me the opportunity to address this Honourable House, and for that honour, I am eternally grateful to them. I stand here this morning with immense pride as I present a brief perspective on the plans and programmes of the Ministry going forward and what we have achieved over the past few months. So again, I really want to thank the people of St. Andrew's South-West for their support during the period.

Mr. Speaker, over the last four (4) months, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands had been in a state of unsettledness as we moved from the Ministerial Complex to various locations in the Queens Park area, before returning to the Ministerial Complex, just about a month ago; the third floor was under repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I must offer sincere thanks to the Ministry of Works, who oversaw the remedial works on the third floor of the Ministerial Complex and ensured that we have a more conducive environment in which to operate. So, we are much, much more comfortable, Mr. Speaker, and we are now much more focused so that we can continue to contribute to the growth and development of the Agriculture Sector.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Senator Dunstan Campbell, the Representative of the farmers' and fisher folk in the Senate. **(Applause)** We are looking forward to working closely with him at the Ministry of Agriculture, so that we can meet the objective of the farmers and the fisher folk.

Mr. Speaker, going forward, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands will place focus on the following projects, which will contribute significantly to spurring growth in the Agriculture Sector. Mr. Speaker, the projects I speak of are the following: the OECS Regional Agriculture Competitiveness Project (AGRICOM) and you may have heard me

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

spoke about this project over... sometime last year. Mr. Speaker, we have had some setbacks, but we will be launching the project on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. Mr. Speaker, it is a US four million dollar project. We are now setting up the office to accommodate the project. Mr. Speaker, the project is expected to bring serious benefits to the stakeholders of the Agri-Food Sector, and one of the tangible benefits expected will be more focus on targeted production in satisfying the crucial Tourism Sector as well.

Mr. Speaker, Climate-smart Agriculture and Enterprise Development Project (SAEP), you know we had MAREP and we have moved now to SAEP. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with EFAD and CDB, funding suitable Agriculture Enterprise projects (SAEP), which will specifically target the youth and will lay heavy emphasis on climate smart agriculture practices.

Mr. Speaker, we have had dialogue on this before, we have reviewed the project and we are now preparing to move forward with the project. This very important project, Mr. Speaker, will commence during the next month or so and will engender serious collaboration between the Ministry and the project, and over five hundred farmers will benefit from the project implementation, a lot of emphasis will be placed on the young people in Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, CANECO Project. This project have already provided work for over fifty-seven (57) persons and additional jobs will be created as the investors move into the second phase of the project. Mr. Speaker, and that will be the construction of a modern distillery in Conference, in St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, who on earth would have thought that we would have revolutionized the Cane Industry at this point in time here in Grenada? This is a plus for Grenada, it is a very tangible project and we must applaud CANECO for moving in that direction. **(Applause)** A lot of the small farmers will benefit too because we need the lands, they need the cane to grow so that the project would continue. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry will continue to provide all the support necessary to ensure the successful execution of this very important project.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Soursop Value Chain Development Project, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) has provided two hundred and eight thousand US dollars (US\$208,000.00) to help Grenada put in place the structures needed to develop a viable industry around the soursop fruit. Mr. Speaker, we cannot emphasize the importance of that, because you know we alone, Grenada alone has the market, the USA market for fresh soursop, and we have to sustain and keep that market going.

Mr. Speaker, increasing the production and marketing of soursop has been identified by the Government of Grenada as an important means of increasing agricultural diversity and creating opportunities for improving livelihoods in rural areas and especially among small farmers. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, market opportunities for processed soursop products exists. However, Mr. Speaker, soursop production is not currently meeting its potential, primarily due to the lack of coordination between the stakeholders; everybody wants to go their own way, Mr. Speaker. A limited framework in which to undertake policy direction; stakeholders' inability to develop strategies to take advantage of market opportunities and the occurrence and quality issues in production and the post-harvest handling of the product.

Mr. Speaker, we have identified these limitations, and Mr. Speaker, moving forward with the project, we would be addressing these limitations. And, that is where Senator Dunstan Campbell and pulling the farmers together, working closely with the Ministry, we would be able to work on those problems. So, we really, really are happy to have him in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the Land Bank Project. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture has begun the implementation of this novel project, which is implemented in collaboration with the FAO, and it is intended to put idle lands into more productive use. It is envisaged that there will be an improvement in access to lands and this continue to be a major challenges for many landless farmers, especially the young people.

Mr. Speaker, the project is also seeking to provide support to improve market access, as well as, training of farmers, especially in market intelligence and linkages.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, we have already had many calls from people in the rural areas informing us of lands that are sitting idle and there is no knowledge on who the owners are. So, we are working on all of that to ensure that we utilize the lands, we know who the owners are or whatever has to be done to ensure that these lands are not idle and we will be able to utilize it in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Soil Fertility and Mapping Project. Mr. Speaker, the Soil Fertility Mapping Project is funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, and you may have heard me spoke about this project over and over here in this Honourable House and the extent to which we are moving with this project and the quality of the project. And, this morning, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to inform this Honourable House that the soil mapping sampling is presently being conducted by the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, and initial testing began in St. Andrew's Parish in June of 2007. The sampling drive has now been extended to all the agricultural districts on the Island with the aim of completing the process by June 2018. So, Mr. Speaker, farmers' would have the opportunity to know the quality of soil that they have so they would, you know, be able to help them **(bell rings)** in their planting efforts. Mr. Speaker, just a couple minutes more please.

**Mr. Speaker:** Okay, we will give you one minute.

**Hon. Yolande Bain-Horsford:** Mr. Speaker, you may have heard me speak here about the Youth in Agriculture Project. We are working on that; that is something that will be unfolding in the next couple months; we will give technical support and access to lands, materials support, plants, seed, irrigation, shade houses, to embrace that project that we are taking on.

The Farm Labour Project, Mr. Speaker, I know the farmers are waiting. We have a more organized and a more robust plan for the Farm Labour this year, because that is a project that we always have problems with. We never get... the farmers who deserve

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

the support, you know, sometimes, don't get the support. So, we have a more organized programme now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, training in yam production conducted in three (3) of the Districts; one hundred (100) farmers benefitted. We have had that, we have hosted the 4H Leaders' Convention; they are looking at new ideas for 4H, moving the 4H Movement forward. We have had training for our quarantine officers, and we have hosted a very successful root crop festival on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the former PS, Miss Merina Jessamy and the staff for all the hard work they have done over the past year. And, I also want to take this opportunity too to welcome the new PS, Mr. Elvis Morain to the Ministry of Agriculture. Thank you very much. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Andrew South-West. Honourable Representative for St. Patrick East.

**Hon. Pamela Moses:** Good morning, good morning, all. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you. I do thank you for, many years ago when you helped built capacity in me as your young teacher; he was my principal, I just want to let this Honourable House know. And, I think that you would have contributed significantly to me being here today and following in his footsteps, I seem to be following him everywhere. Mr. Speaker was the principal of my school, I became a principal of that same school, and now we are in this Honourable House together. But, this morning, Mr. Speaker, I remembered something that you did that really helped me to realize what I needed to do in life. When our students stole the cucumbers in the garden you made me; you sat there with me in the office and made me solve the case myself. And, I would not tell the Honourable house what we did with that student when we discovered who stole the cucumbers, but it was all of those things that helped along the way. And, I want to

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

really congratulate Mr. Speaker, and to let him know that I am very proud of him and I look forward to working along with him.

And, to my teammates, going through Election with you was really awesome. It was a wonderful challenge. And, I want to thank God, you know, my awesome God for helping us through that time. It was a really challenging time, but it was great, our success was tremendous. We must not forget, we are all here today and we are thanking the people who have made this possible, who have allowed us to be here today, the people in our Constituencies. And, I want to thank St. Patrick's East for your tremendous support for accepting me, for being there, for all of your support throughout the entire last year and a half, and, for giving me the opportunity to be your Parliamentary Representative to look out for your needs. I just want to let them know, Mr. Speaker, that it is indeed my greatest honour to do so, to look out for their needs and that I will continue to do so and to give them the level of representation that they so truly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to share this morning on basically our stakeholders who we work with in the Ministry of Education in the area of Tertiary Education and Skills Development. I want to start with the National Training Agency, Mr. Speaker, we work very closely with the NTA, they really provide the oversight for the development and implementation of TVET Programmes in our schools, as well as, in our tertiary institutions. Thus far, the NTA has certified three thousand, two hundred and seventy (3,270) persons, young persons in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique in level one and two NVQ's and CVQ's certification. These young people, Mr. Speaker, seven hundred and seventy-five (775) of them have qualified in the area of Hospitality Arts. It means that they can work in our Hotel Industry that is expanding so significantly now, Mr. Speaker. It means that these young people have access or have the qualification that they need to get jobs in the hotel industry. We will continue to partner with the NTA to ensure that these young people go to level three and four, and so, become qualified in their various areas, Hospitality Arts, Business, Education, and all the other skill areas

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

that there are. The NTA works with ten (10) centres throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and the leading centre is the NEWLO, the New Life Organization, Mr. Speaker. It is an Institution now that is turning back students who want to do skills, imagine that. It is not because they don't want to train them, Mr. Speaker, it is because really, so much young people are gravitating toward skills, NEWLO has no space. So, as a Government, as a Ministry, Mr. Speaker, we will be partnering, working very closely with the New Life Organization to address this issue and to train our young men and women, to train our unemployed women, we will be doing so Mr. Speaker, and we have already started the discussion with the New Life Organization and they are extremely happy and we are extremely happy and you know, and has blessed this Government tremendously. You know, it is run by one of our nuns, and you know, we have had discussions with our Sister.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear what is happening now in the world of work. If two (2) young persons go for a job, both having ten (10) CXC's, the one with the skill subjects would have the greater edge, because that young person would really have, would be more marketable. What it is that employers are looking for now, it is not just academics or subjects and qualifications and certifications. They are looking for experience; they are looking for the young person who would be able to assist in other areas within the institution. And so, we encourage our young students in schools, we call on parents and teachers to change our way of thinking and let us encourage our young people to do more technical subjects. Do not only focus on the academic subjects, because we want to ensure that they are better prepared for the world of work.

Mr. President... Mr. Speaker, (forgive me for that). Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Westerhall Secondary School is constructing a storeroom at the value of twenty-five thousand dollars. It is one of the many, many standards that is needed for that school, to be the first school on this Island to do a CVQ subject. And, we commend Westerhall Secondary School significantly (**applause**), because it is one of the schools in the pilot that has successfully gotten to this stage. And, next week, maybe next week

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

Wednesday or maybe next week Tuesday, an external assessor would be coming over from Barbados to assess these students in the area of Building Construction, Level 1 CVQ Certification. Westerhall has done well.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that for a school to take on six (6) CVQ's is a really great challenge. As a past Principal, I know how hard it is to make adjustment to timetables, CVQ requires eight (8) periods per week, Mr. Speaker; eight (8) periods per week, and so it is difficult for that to happen when Math and English only has four and five. Mr. Speaker, we know how critical Math and English are to the curriculum, and so to introduce CVQ's into schools is a tremendous challenge. So, we must really applaud Westerhall Secondary for taking that great step. **(Applause)** And, I want to call on the other schools, the other four schools who were in the pilot, who were not able to get there, and I said I understand their challenges, I want to call on them to make that bold step, and to let this Honourable House know that we will continue to work with them.

Mr. Speaker, I was at St. George's University Graduation just this Saturday, and nearly three hundred (300) of our own Grenadian students, well over two hundred (200) of them would have graduated, and I want to thank this Government, I want to thank the Ministry of Education for that partnership that has existed with the University that afforded these students a ninety percent (90%) scholarship **(applause)**, most of them, ninety percent (90%) scholarship. There is one young lady there from my Constituency, Mr. Speaker, her mom doesn't make much money, minimum wage, and minimum meaning the lowest possible amount of money that we are allowed to pay any human being in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, that is what she makes, but her daughter graduated on Saturday and she was so proud. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, this is only possible because this Government has been assisting her through the SEED Programme and through Needy Assistance Programme. We must commend this Administration for looking out for all of our vulnerable families, and this is the only way that this young lady is able to move out of this cycle of poverty that

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

her family has been going through in my Constituency and in all Constituencies throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, I want to let this Honourable House know that, at present, there are thirty (30) full scholarships available for St. George's University in the Bachelors of Arts and Science. The deadline is June 15, and I want to appeal to all of our Grenadian young people to apply for those scholarships, and this one only caters for tuition only. There is a Master's in Business, the deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>, there are fourteen (14) scholarships now available in that area. **(Time bell rings)**. Yes sir, one minute to wrap up?

**Mr. Speaker:** Granted!

**Hon. Pamela Moses:** Trinidad and Tobago, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago are offering ten (10) scholarships, the deadline being May 31<sup>st</sup>, this month; Russia scholarships, there are numerous scholarships for Russia and for China. We would just like all the people out here to, you know, let your friends and family know to contact our scholarship desk at the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by letting the Honourable House know that in the area of education outreach, we are putting programmes together, family learning programmes that would cater to unemployed women in the home, to cater to young boys or young men on the block who have dropped out of school to cater for children in the area of literacy for after school programmes, and that we have sought funding from the... well I would not say which agency, but we are doing so now, to fund these programmes as part of our outreach so that no one gets left behind, no child, no adult, no one in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique gets left behind in the field of literacy. We want everyone to attain CVQ levels so that we can all have that wonderful Grenadian dream. I thank you. **(Applause)**

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Patrick East. Honourable Representative for St. John

**Hon. Alvin Da Breo:** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say good morning to you and, congratulations on your continuing appointment as Speaker of this House. You did a very great job last term, and I know this term would even be better. I also want to thank the citizens of St. John's, if you would permit me, Mr. Speaker, seeing that this is our first official Parliament, to thank them for their continued support in me being their Representative. And also, to the Prime Minister, for allowing me in his Cabinet.

So, Mr. Speaker, today May 15<sup>th</sup> is the OECS Climate Change day, and you know that we have, there is a new Ministry of Climate Resilience, which is a mammoth undertaking, Mr. Speaker, due to the importance of the climate change on Small Developing States. So, the Government, Mr. Speaker, is thinking ahead, and putting measures in place by having this Ministry that would look after our adaptation to climate change, resource mobilization, capacity building and generally the way that we would adapt to the changes due to Green House gases and rising sea levels, et cetera, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the Fishing Industry, this Industry is continuing to be a very important Industry for the sustainable livelihoods for many of our citizens in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce that we are still maintaining our List 1 status for the exportation of fish and presently we are speaking with a couple investors as to having more value added for our fish.

You know, Mr. Speaker, most of the fish that we catch is kept for our local consumption, because Grenada consumes more fish than any other Island in the OECS and the remainder that we export fresh. But, what we're looking at, Mr. Speaker, is how we could get some more value added, how we could do one or two levels of processing so that we would receive a little more. So, instead of us getting say, five dollars (\$5) for the export of fresh fish we want to get about eight (\$8) or ten dollars (\$10) from that

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

added stage and we are also concentrating heavily on the quality, maintaining the quality of fish because we would get a lot more money, Mr. Speaker, if we export a higher quality fish.

The National Award Day for fishermen this year would be on December 28<sup>th</sup> and on the 29<sup>th</sup> we would have Fisherman's Birthday in St. John, in Gouyave. And, I would take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to invite you and my other colleague Members and everyone to come to Gouyave on June 29<sup>th</sup>. We would have a beautiful exhibition and we are also looking at having many more activities this year, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Grenada is considering a session to the Fish Talk Agreement. And, this, Mr. Speaker, will enhance our management of the larger species. I'm very pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that under the Billfish Project, we completed the review of the new Fisheries Legislation. We will table the final draft to stakeholders for review and for their comments and then we would submit it Cabinet for its approval.

Mr. Speaker, we are also reviewing the draft Sargassum Management Plan and this will be done under the CC4FISH Project funded by the FAO, the Food of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization. Mr. Speaker, we will bring parties together to consult on this very important policy matter to ensure that all parties in this process can make their contribution.

This year, Mr. Speaker, the challenges of sargassum is with us again. And, we are looking at the sargassum, not as a waste, but as a resource. So, we are looking at it positively. I know, Mr. Speaker, when it's there wasting because Sunday I went to the Battle Hill Procession and you know this is from Grenville Town up to Battle Hill and I can see the problems that the people that living around the Soubise/Marquis area has to go through because I know it was difficult, Mr. Speaker, passing along that area. But, the Government has started a project right now; the Cabinet has approved at least four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) to start with the clean-up. But, Mr. Speaker, what is more, but the better way to handle it is to not let it come ashore because when it come ashore it starts dying and decaying, but if it's in the water at least you would not

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

have that smell and it would not be decaying there and it's also, they have many species of fish that eats it. So, the emphasis would be to put booms out to trap it and then you could clean it from there, but most times with the booms when the tide change it goes back out. So, this would be the area, Mr. Speaker, in which emphasis would be done to deal with the Sargassum in the future. But, right now the beach cleaning up has started; as a matter of fact it had started on May the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of our fishermen. They are so good that the FAO and CRFM, that's the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism they have asked Grenada to host the FAO Fishers from the four (4) Pacific States for four (4) days. And, these Pacific Fishers, Mr. Speaker, they would arrive in Grenada on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. And, I want to express appreciation to the Grenville FAD Fishers Organizations who will be the direct host to the visiting fishers.

Mr. Speaker, on Forestry we have significant forest resource and therefore we remain committed to biodiversity, conservation and protection. Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate to have a rain forest because we have a lot of fresh water, and if you speak to our neighbours in Barbados, Antigua, Aruba, and places that have no rivers or rainforest, we would see how fortunate we are here in Grenada.

In the Forestry Division, Mr. Speaker, we are getting ready for the upcoming tourist season and the Department will commence refurbishment of the Grand Etang Lake House. This will be transformed into a Forestry Interpretation Centre. In this way we can add to our tourism product here in Grenada, Mr. Speaker.

In addition the work on constructing the Board Walk at Telescope will start very soon. We will implement this project in collaboration with the Grenada Organic Agriculture Movement, it's called GOAM. And we thank the Five C's for their financial assistance.

We are in discussion with the Ministry of Tourism to finalize the licence to operate the Mt. Gazo Centre. This was opened last year, Mr. Speaker, and we have a private entrepreneur that has applied and we are looking favourably to granting the

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

approval so that this tourism project can begin. I see that my colleague from St. David is very pleased to hear that.

Mr. Speaker, we are working on the update of the Forestry Policy and Legislation. So, furthermore, we will also launch the Management Plan for Mt. St. Catherine and Mt. Gazo, because Mr. Speaker, we have, if we change the designation from Forestry Reserve to National Park we will be able to get a lot more grant.

**(Time Bell Rings)**

**Hon. Alvin Da Breo:** Mr. Speaker, could I have another, at least one (1) minute please.

**Mr. Speaker:** One (1) minute.

**Hon. Alvin Da Breo:** Because, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry that I'm in has Forestry, Fisheries, Information or GIS and NaDMA, so, Mr. Speaker, I just would like to say that the Hurricane Season would be upon us very soon. And, NaDMA is actively working so that we hope that we would not have a severe season, but we are actively working so that in case we have any problems they are on top of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to seriously thank the PS and the other members of the Ministry of Climate Resilience and also the past Ministry I was in, which was in Agriculture and Lands, and we look forward, Mr. Speaker, to having a wonderful five-year term in office. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Representative for St. John. Honourable Representative for the Town of St. George. **(Two Members rose at the same time)**  
Are you giving way to...

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

**Hon. Peter David:** Yes, I am. I am, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** So generous of you. Honourable Representative for St. Andrew – North-East.

**Hon. Kate Lewis:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I too would like to express or place on record my deepest gratitude to the people of St. Andrew North-East for affording me this opportunity and electing me their Parliamentary Representative in this Honourable House. I want to assure them that I commit to serving each and every one of them with humility, fairness, and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the pleasure is mine to update this Honourable House on the undertakings of the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts which is led by both Minister Norland Cox and myself.

Mr. Speaker, the IMANI Programme. This is a programme that is very important to us as well as our young trainees. I commend the persons who would have established such a programme because I want to raise a situation that... or some information that was communicated to me, Mr. Speaker, in interacting with one of major businesses out there. They would have indicated that their Marketing Manager today would have started off as an IMANI trainees, just selling. **(Applause)** So, I want to congratulate that person as well as to reassure our IMANI trainees that the possibilities are out there and they too can have their own success story.

Mr. Speaker, that is why as a Ministry our intention is to continue with the programme and strengthen it so that it can achieve all the objectives. We will also continue with the implementation of the M Power Programme, a training programme geared to our young men at risk. Many a times they can be neglected. So, as a Government, we have made a conscious decision to empower these young men.

We will also see the continuation and implementation of Youth Rehabilitation Projects such a Project Reach, Project FLY and Project ACE.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

We will also have the continuation of the Youth Enterprise Initiative with a special focus on the implementation of the Young Farmers Co-operative in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Youth in Agriculture Programme.

We will see that the implementation of the fifty-fifty cost sharing strategy with the businesses for the new IMANI Programme, and also we will continue to have training opportunities for our youth leaders and youth oriented organizations facilitated through youth participation.

Mr. Speaker, the young persons of this country they are very important to us, and we will ensure that we put all the necessary plans and programmes in place so that they too can make their valuable contribution towards our nation's development.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the Ministry of Culture we have had a successful launch of Spicemas on April 7, 2018. There was a huge success of the event and I would like to say thanks to all those who made it possible.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to a bumper carnival season and I wish all participants success in the various competitions.

Mr. Speaker, on March 16<sup>th</sup> there was the Peter Phillip Drum Core Competition, and we had participation by a combined Primary School Drum Core and eight (8) Secondary Schools. The Division was able to secure sponsorships to the tune of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from the following business entities, National Lottery Authority, Grenada Trade Centre, Grenada Bottling Company, Glenelg, SPs International and Ariza.

The Division of Culture held three (3) calypso workshops in St. Patrick, St. George and St. Andrew where a total of one hundred and thirteen (113) students and twenty-two (22) teachers participated from April 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. The workshop focused on the history of calypso, presentation, writing and composition. There was also a Dance Workshop held in the Trade Centre from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> and sixty-nine (69) persons from throughout our Tri-Island State participated.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce the reintroduction of the Grenada Festival of the Arts and to date the Chief Cultural Officer and the Assistant Chief Cultural Officer visited all schools to discuss and promote the reintroduction of the Festival to begin in October 2018. All schools thus far have been informed of their intended outline and categories for the competition and also discussions were held with the principals on areas of assistance needed.

The Division of Culture continues to conduct programme in our various schools and these programmes include the School Orchestra Programme, dance classes, calypso classes, matching drums, music theory classes and steelband classes.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the Ministry of Sports, we have just witnessed the successful Grenada Invitational where we had the likes of Justin Gatlin, our very own Bralon Taplin, and LaShawn Merritt. The event was carried live on ESPN, which promoted Grenada to the whole wide world. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, we also had the completion of the Pure Grenada Football Cup from March to May 2018. It was an Inaugural Competition by the GFA and the winners, the St. Patrick Crown City Striker, we congratulate them.

Our CARIFTA Team saw the likes of Kelsie Murell-Ross obtaining a silver medal in the shot put, we congratulate her. We also had the CARIFTA Swimming Team they got six (6) medals, one (1) gold, one (1) silver, and four (4) bronze. We congratulate our swimming team.

We have also just witnessed the 2018 Gold Course Commonwealth Games where Grenada got two (2) medals. A gold by Lindon Victor and a bronze medal by Anderson Peters in the Decathlon and Javelin respectively. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate all our athletes and to encourage them to work hard and to make our country proud. **(Applause)**

The upcoming events under Sports, over the weekend the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May, we will have the Whitsuntide Games. We also would see the Windward Islands Men Cricket Tournament to be held in St. Lucia; the Winlot CBN Windward Island Schools

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Games 2018, St. Lucia, between July to August; the CBN men's basketball championship to be held in Surinam in June and also the GFA under 19 Tournament 2018.

Mr. Speaker, that's a wrap on the update from the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Culture, and I thank you very much for this opportunity to address the House this morning. I thank you.

**(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Representative for St. Andrew North-East. Honourable Representative for Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

**Hon. Kindra Maturine-Stewart:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence to first and foremost, thank the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, all the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique for the trust and confidence that they have placed in me, of course, by electing me to be their Member of Parliament.

I stand here this morning, Mr. Speaker, of course committed to the task at hand. I am quite aware of the challenges that we as Kayaks, would say in local parlance experience on the Islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Mr. Speaker, we are a proud people, we are hardworking, we are industrious, and of course, year after year, month after month, we continue to make our contribution to the National Development of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, I was charged with the Ministerial responsibility for both the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Mr. Speaker, but before I go further I wish to say thanks to my predecessor, Elvin G. Nimrod for the sterling contributions that he has made to the development or to the holistic

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

development of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and for the leadership role that he had played in the Ministry of Legal Affairs. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, I will begin with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and just to provide this Honourable House with an update of some of the activities, plans and programmes that are now taking place there.

Mr. Speaker, as you may recall the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, Act. No. 25 of 2017; Mr. Speaker, this bit of Legislation was enacted so as to redress certain impediments which are experienced by many offenders, especially our young boys and girls whilst they were, of course, children. These offenders, Mr. Speaker, later discover, of course, that their criminal records significantly impede their abilities to secure certain employment opportunities, to obtain certain visas in order to travel, in order to reside abroad and other educational opportunities. And, Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to inform this morning that this bit of Legislation, we are now ready for implementation which of course, will commence within the next two (2) weeks. The application forms, Mr. Speaker, are ready and the Department of Inland Revenue to the Treasury Department has been alerted in terms of the collection of the requisite application fee. More information, Mr. Speaker, will be forthcoming in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, most notably the Government of Grenada has taken the decision to reintroduce the Caribbean Court of Appeal, of course, for the consideration of the general public as the Final Court of Appeal in place of the Privy Council.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, a six-member Steering Committee has been formed to make recommendations with regard to the preliminary ideas pertaining to this issue. However, Mr. Speaker, other broad based organizations and stakeholders will be invited of course, to nominate persons for the purposes of forming a broad based committee in order to promote and discuss this Bill. Mr. Speaker, it is expected that a referendum will be held on this Bill during the latter quarter of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Legal Affairs is also looking at ways of improving the quality of justice that is being offered to our people. Not just, Mr. Speaker, in having

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

access to greater justice, but also the manner, the timely manner with which justice is being afforded. Mr. Speaker, as you know, justice delayed, is justice denied. And, as the Ministry of Legal Affairs, in the Ministry of Legal Affairs we are taking steps, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that justice is delivered in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, we do have some challenges as it relates to the Court's infrastructure, those challenges, Mr. Speaker, will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission I now turn to the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs. Mr. Speaker, the Mission or the Mission Statement of the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique is **'to enhance and improve the way of life and wellbeing of our people in Carriacou and Petite Martinique by delivering professional quality and timely services and infrastructure.'**

Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of restructuring the Ministry and reorganizing it to ensure that our Mission Statement is better realized.

Mr. Speaker, speaking about infrastructure and infrastructural development on the Island of Carriacou and Petite Martinique; just to advise, Mr. Speaker, that one piece of asphalt road has just been completed at the Top Road/Dover. This road, Mr. Speaker, is about eight hundred (800) feet in length at a cost about, in excess of over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

Mr. Speaker, another one thousand five hundred (1500) asphalt road is to be undertaken in the Mt. Royal area very soon. Mr. Speaker, also a number of concrete roads and bridges are also earmarked and very soon the process will commence for the rehabilitation of some of these road projects.

Mr. Speaker, likewise in Carriacou the entire Island is plagued, of course, with the invasion of the sargassum seaweed and we have also, Mr. Speaker, collaborated with the other Ministries to ensure that the areas most affected that is, Petite Martinique, Mt. Pleasant and Windward are presently being cleaned.

Mr. Speaker, we've had two (2) small projects, those projects, Mr. Speaker, have started and is yet to complete. In the area of technology we have two (2) projects, one

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

is a CARCIP Project funded by the World Bank. It is a small Business Support System Project that cost in the region, Mr. Speaker, of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The aim of this project is to offer business solutions for persons with small businesses. The intent is to add another dimension to the Multi-Purpose Centre by adding a Business Centre for Excellence and Innovation.

The other project, Mr. Speaker, will be funded by the NTRC under the Inter Island Connectivity Project and it entails the upgrading of two (2) IT labs in Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Mr. Speaker, this project will cost one hundred and one thousand dollars (\$101,000.00).

Also, coming on stream are three (3) projects, Mr. Speaker, under the Japanese Caribbean Climate Change Partnership Project. These projects are the Pasture Management Project or the PADDOC and this is of course, for the farmers. Construction of the water catchment for the cistern at the Princess Royal Hospital and the third, Mr. Speaker, is the restoration of the Grand Bay Cistern.

Mr. Speaker, just last week we've had a delegation by the Chinese Developers who, Mr. Speaker, are about to deliver to the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique over one hundred (100) housing units. Mr. Speaker, very soon the earth work will commence and, Mr. Speaker, this is a very, or it is a very exciting time for the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, Carriacou and Petite Martinique presently is faced with the serious challenge of waste disposal and it is very critical and urgent for a solution to our present situation at the Dumfries Dump Site. And, so, Mr. Speaker, we have already begun to receive ideas, as to how best we can solve this problem. Thus, Mr. Speaker, a project would be coming soon for consideration to address this all important issue.

Mr. Speaker, my Ministry is now engaging in talks with the Grenada Airports Authority on a number of projects. More immediate, Mr. Speaker, is the possible lengthening of the airstrip by five hundred (500) ft, to enable larger planes, Mr. Speaker, to land on our Airport and provide more service to the people of Carriacou and Petite

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Martinique. **(Applause)** Mr. Speaker, more exciting times for the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Mr. Speaker, there is also going to be an improvement in the drainage system around the Airstrip and the improvement of the Terminal building, which has already started.

Mr. Speaker, we are awaiting the commencement of work to be done **(time bell Rings)** on Bishop's College, and, Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to report... and, Mr. Speaker, may I ask for one (1) extra minute?

**Mr. Speaker:** You have one (1) minute.

**Hon. Kindra Maturine-Stewart:** Very well, Mr. Speaker. In respect to Petite Martinique, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that presently the Petite Martinique Hard Court is now in the process of arranging the lighting on that Court, and this, Mr. Speaker, would be in time for the Annual Petite Martinique Whitsuntide Regatta Festival, to be held this weekend.

So, Mr. Speaker, all-in-all, we are moving, and we are getting ready, the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique are, indeed, excited and we, as the campaign slogan says, Mr. Speaker, "We are Moving." Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Honourable Representative for the Town of St. George. We are sorry that the Honourable Representative for St. Andrew North-West has to leave to attend a funeral of her husband's uncle.

**Hon. Peter David:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me join others in congratulating you on your elevation to the position of Speaker of the House for a second term. And, as indicated earlier by my friend from St. David, I am sure that comes, as a result of your excellent stewardship in the last term of this House.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

Mr. Speaker, I would first address the people of the Town of St. George, mainly to thank them for electing me to represent them once again. I do have a special place in my heart for the people of the Town, and I want to assure them that over the next five (5) years, we would do what we can, together, to advance the interest of the people of the Town of St. George. And, I want to thank my colleagues in this House and the Prime Minister and the Party, for having me run in the last Elections, on the NNP ticket. I want to thank them for that, and I look forward to working together with all of my colleagues in this House. And, I want to thank my colleagues in the 'Other House', the 'Upper House', some of whom I see here today for an excellent four (4) years with them in the Senate, and it is something that I would cherish for a long time to come. I want to thank them, the Leader of Government's Business, Minister Stiehl is here and other Members of the Senate, I want to thank them for that.

I would speak, firstly, Mr. Speaker, on the Ministry of Labour, and I want to thank the workers, particularly the unionized workers for what I consider a very warm welcome in the last Labour Day celebrations. **(Applause)**

As I said to them during the celebrations, I felt very much at home, having marched with them for many, many years, and having struggled with them for the achievements that they have made, and I want to, again, use the opportunity to tell them that we will be together, in the struggles, ahead.

In the week leading up to May Day/Labour Day, I met with many workers and employers, both at the workplaces. I visited several workplaces, both in St. George and St. Andrew, but I also met with the TUC as a body and the Employers' Federation. And, many of the issues that the TUC raised, were also raised by the Employers' Federation, wages being one of them; the issue of wages and the need to address the Minimum Wage, Grenada's engagement with the International Labour Organization (ILO), conditions of work, Contract Work, Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, the pension that is talked about so much, and also the upgrading of the Ministry of Labour, to meet the new demands of the new environment. And, I must say that the meetings with both the

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Employers' Federation and the Trade Union Council were excellent. I think that the Unions raised many issues that we must address, issues such as subventions from Government, something we are currently looking at and something, I am sure, the Cabinet will, no doubt, have a positive response to.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministry of Labour, over the years, have done an excellent job, but we have to upgrade, and that is one of the issues that was raised, both by the Trade Unions and the Employers' Federation. And, as I looked at all of the issues raised, we have agreed, in the Ministry, to address several of the issues. Firstly, we are in the process now of setting up the new Wages Advisory Board. The Cabinet has been advised that that will be coming before them, soon, and we have had a favourable response to do that.

We accept, and I think the Prime Minister says it time and time again; that workers and the Trade Unions have sacrificed over these last five (5) years, that the workers themselves have done much to get us where we are. And, as we read the benefits of the Structural Adjustment Programme, the workers must also share in those benefits. So, setting up the Wages Advisory Board will certainly cause us to have a look at the Minimum Wage. As you are well aware, there is no single Minimum Wage, but there is a Minimum Wage for various Sectors. We, in the Ministry are now reviewing that. We are going to set up the Wages Advisory Board, to have a look at the wages in various Sectors.

Additionally, we are looking at the Dispute Resolution Mechanism. Too many times, the Ministry of Labour is only heard of, when you have a dispute. What we need to do is to set up some predictable mechanism for dispute resolution, and that, we are currently looking at with the help of Advisors that we have taken on board. Mr. Speaker, we are also looking at the review of the Labour Code, something that has demanded by both workers and employers; that is currently on the way.

Additionally, the ILO Engagement; the ILO, (International Labour Organization) is an important Organization except that there is a serious cost attached to participation,

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

but the Government has indicated that we are now in a position to review our participation, and we are going to be engaging at the highest level.

Additionally, as I said earlier the pension was raised. As you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, the Government is currently engaged in discussions with the Unions on pension and the Prime Minister announced, several months ago, that pensions would be restored for Public Workers, and that is something that was raised and something we would look at.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to be engaging, regularly, going forward. We have agreed that there will be, at least, quarterly engagements between the Trade Union, the Trade Unions Council and the Ministry and the Employers and the Ministry, as we go forward, to try to create the best industrial environment, industrial relations environment that we can have. So, Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell, we are beginning the process of working with the Unions and the employers, to create that environment.

With respect to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working hard to keep and to lift the image of this country. I want to pay tribute to previous Foreign Ministers, who have done a great job in doing that, and I must report that in my recent engagements, overseas, Grenada is well respected. **(Applause)** Grenada is on top of the list of countries, who gains the respect of International Organizations and other countries; and for two (2) reasons, I believe, one, is the fact that over the last several years, we have come together, as a people, to solve our problems. The fact that we have reported, internationally, about the Social Partners, the fact that the Unions are on board, the fact that the NGOs are on board, the fact that the Private Sector is on board, I believe that Grenada has earned the respect of countries abroad for that.

In addition, the fact that we have taken principled positions on many international issues, both at a bilateral and a multi-lateral level, on issues, such as Climate Change, on issues such as corresponding banking, which threatens our Financial Sector, on issues such as Graduation. Graduation is the fact that they now refer to us as middle

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

income countries, which bars us. Despite of our vulnerability, it bars us from getting certain assistance; the fact that we have spoken out there, Mr. Speaker, in these Fora. In CHOGM, for example, the Prime Minister recently spoke at CHOGM, which is the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London. The reception was enormously positive, and, in fact, only yesterday, we met with the Indian Minister for Health, who has come to Grenada, and who has said she was sent by her Prime Minister to deliver a personal note to our Prime Minister, having met him in CHOGM, and had enormous respect for Prime Minister Mitchell, because of his achievements and the achievements of his country. **(Applause)** So, Grenada, Grenada, Mr. Speaker, and our Prime Minister is receiving enormous, enormous support, internationally, at the OECS, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, in CARICOM, in ACP, in fact, in CARICOM, Prime Minister Mitchell is seen as the elder Statesman, whose voice is listened to.

Recently, over the last weekend, Mr. Speaker, we hosted a Committee of 24 meetings. The Committee of 24 is a Committee of the United Nations on Decolonization, and I must report that, you know, in the last meeting in St. Vincent last year, there was a physical fight between parties in the Decolonization Committee. In Grenada, we not only had a peaceful meeting, but we had an outcome that all of the parties were happy with, another credit to Grenada. **(Applause)** And, for that I want to credit our Ambassador, Mc Guire, Ambassador to the United Nations, a young Ambassador, appointed by Prime Minister Mitchell about three (3) years ago.

***(Time Bell Rings)***

**Hon. Peter David:** She has done an excellent job at the United Nations. **(Applause)** Mr. Speaker, can I have one (1) more minute, please.

**Mr. Speaker:** You have one (1) more minute.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

**Hon. Peter David:** And, in that regard, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we will be reviewing Ambassadorships and seeking to appoint new, young Ambassadors, **(applause)** who will provide leadership, internationally.

We have also, Mr. Speaker, been looking at some new bilateral arrangements, with new partners. We have deepened our relationship with our traditional partners, Great Britain and the United States and Canada. But, we are seeking new partners in Africa, in both the Horn of Africa, North of Africa, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, with South Africa and the BVI and other countries. We have established relations with some South-East Asian countries, Indonesia, the Indonesian Ambassador came in two (2) weeks ago, Vietnam, countries like that. We are seeking to establish new arrangements with Morocco, with the People's Republic of China. We are having discussions to see how we can be part of what the Chinese call the Belt and Road Project, which is a Chinese intent to invest in countries like Grenada. We have established a Mission in the United Arab Emirates. CARICOM is looking at and the OECS, in particular, is looking at re-establishing the Mission that we had, the Embassy in Ottawa in Canada. So, these are some of the things we are doing.

But, just before I sit, Mr. Speaker, I want to report on the Diaspora, because, you know in London, I think, and the Prime Minister may report, himself on this; we had a wonderful meeting **(applause)** with the Grenadian Diaspora, in London, a very supportive group. The Prime Minister himself had a meeting in Toronto, Canada, and in New York, a meeting is coming up in July in New York. We are working, apart from the engagements at the level of Governments and Multi-lateral Organizations, we are also seeking to strengthen the relations with our Diaspora, which is an important part of our economic and social development. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for the Town of St. George. Honourable Representative for St. George South-East.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I rise to give a synopsis on the Ministry, one of my responsibilities, I would crave your permission to add my words of commendation to you, Mr. Speaker, on being re-elected to serve, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to commend you on the expert guidance given to this House during your last tenure, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Constituents, the residents of St. George South-East, for their continued confidence in me, and for having elected me to return to the House of Representatives, to continue the task of building the Constituency and the Nation, Mr. Speaker. I do, really, want to place on record my sincerest appreciation for their having afforded me, again, the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to serve them and to serve the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would report on some areas, with respect to the Ministry of Infrastructural Development, Transportation, Energy, Mr. Speaker, and Implementation. It is a large Ministry and a lot of initiatives are being undertaken in this regard, Mr. Speaker. So, my statements would not be exhaustive of the entire Ministry.

I wish to remind, Mr. Speaker, of the major infrastructural projects being undertaken at this point-in-time, Mr. Speaker, and just as reminder. The Farm Roads, Phase 3, and this is at the stage where the designs are being completed, and nearly sixteen (16) roads will be put out for tender, Mr. Speaker. It is funded by OPEC and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Development, Mr. Speaker, to the tune of some sixty-three million EC dollars (EC \$63 m). This is the first, Mr. Speaker, of such a large project, funded by both Parties. Originally, Phase Two and Phase One, these were in the thirty-eight and forty million dollars range, Mr. Speaker.

The St. Patrick roads, this was a project, ten million US dollars (US \$10 m) that was sub-divided, because the funds were insufficient, and part would be funded into Phase One, and we have already obtained the commitment from OFID, Mr. Speaker,

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

that the OPEC Financing Arm, that Phase Two will be financed, as soon as Phase One is completed, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

I wish to put on record the plea made by the Parliamentary Representative for St. Patrick East that we should try to rearrange the project, so that the most, not important, but the most urgent need should be satisfied, and we have a Phase One and a Phase Two. **(Applause)** So, we would be approaching the Fund, to get some of the bridges under Phase Two that are in urgent need of repairs, to be placed on to Phase One. But, I know that the Representative, Mr. Speaker, **(applause)** and the people of St. Patrick East must understand that when we take one from the other, we must give up piece in Phase one; so you may see a component of the roads, not being undertaken, and we may be quick to comment, well, why did they do this bridge and the other bridge and leave the component in between; that is because, Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the good representation from the Representative from St. Patrick East, and we will be approaching the Fund to have the rearrangement made, Mr. Speaker.

The UK CIF Fund, this twenty-eight million US dollars (US \$28 m); we recall the trip made by the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, when he came into the Region and donated three hundred million pounds (£300 m). Grenada's share was twenty-eight million US dollars (US \$28 m), and we will be undertaking the Western Corridor, Mr. Speaker.

I am happy to report that over six hundred thousand pounds (£600,000.00) have been earmarked for the designs and other bits, and this is being handled, Mr. Speaker, by UNOPS (United Nations Office of Project Supervision), and they sit in our Office, Mr. Speaker, and they are also in St. Lucia. But, what is of critical importance is that we know that we are short staffed in the Ministry and nearly all Ministries are short staffed, but of critical importance to the Ministry of Infrastructural Development and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, all the other Ministries, they pounce on these two (2) Ministries, correctly so, to get the services to their Constituents and to the people of Grenada, in general, and we have to provide and support these Ministries, Mr. Speaker.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

So, UNOPS will be looking at our institutional capacity and provide strengthening in that capacity. Now, in particular, as a Division of Implementation has been added to the Ministry, Mr. Speaker, and we note that we have an implementation rate now of 50%, Mr. Speaker, for various financing reasons, having to spend the State's component first, counterpart financing before the International Financing Agencies allow their monies to be spent; all these, Mr. Speaker, reduce the Implementation rate. And, I know, Mr. Speaker, that you are well aware, when the Implementation rate was over 100%, but now we are facing challenging times, Mr. Speaker, from the Structural Adjustment Programme and the inability to get the necessary human resource capacity. So, we will be training our persons, in particular, in implementation, and that Ministry, the Cabinet has accepted the concept note, and we have been looking at implementing large projects within the Ministry, as well as supervising the implementation in other Ministries through their Implementation Officers, Mr. Speaker. So, this is of critical importance and a great initiative by the Government, Mr. Speaker, and by the Prime Minister in affording that the Ministry be also looking at implementation, Mr. Speaker.

In Transportation, critically important, Mr. Speaker, we now have a separate Permanent Secretary, and in this context, I wish to commend, Mr. Speaker, the Permanent Secretary, who has been there, undertaking all the areas that we have spoken about here. Now, the former Clerk of the Houses holding that position, and we have already started on several areas.

The traffic, Mr. Speaker, in the Town of St. George, the traffic along the Grand Anse road, we would be moving to do what is necessary. Already, we are looking at a huge bill, because there is only one ultimate way, giving more accesses between the Town of St. George and through the Town of St. George. That would entail, Mr. Speaker, massive infrastructural development. And, so the Ministry of Transportation would have to undertake this, get it forward to the Public Sector Investment Programme.

Traffic is one, Mr. Speaker, transporting passengers is another, and we are zeroing in on our workers from the North of the country, working in the Hotel Belt, and

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

who needs transportation to get home, and to come to work, Mr. Speaker. After 10:00 o'clock, they cannot get home, and they are exposed to all sorts of incidences, Mr. Speaker. So, we would be working with the Bus Associations, to provide transport, what we'll refer to, as after hours. But, they have already indicated that the Hotels themselves and the Government must play an important role, to ensure that it is economically beneficial to them, Mr. Speaker. And, the Permanent Secretary and his staff would now be working along those lines, Mr. Speaker.

Accommodation for new routes, getting the people from the north of the country, who are working in the Construction Sector, in particular, the Silver Sands Hotel and the others. They must leave, go to Town, and from Town to the area. We want now, Mr. Speaker, through the Transport Board and through the work of the new Division, not new Division, but structured in this manner now, to ensure that they can take their persons, come directly to the South, deposit their passengers. They may not be able to pick up passengers on route, Mr. Speaker, because you have the Grand Anse Association that will be doing this, but we must work together, so that they can drop their people off, and move back up. **(Applause)** And, maybe in the afternoons and evenings, when they are going home, the reverse can happen. So, the Permanent Secretary under his task would be engaging in all those activities, Mr. Speaker, under Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Energy, and I would concentrate in this Ministerial Statement, energy with respect to Electricity, we would certainly have information with respect to the important component of the possible oil and gas situation in the near future. But, this morning, Mr. Speaker, I want to just recognize the work done by the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission. They have been established and even without an office. In fact, the office dedicated for them was occupied by our Ministry, when we had to do some urgent repairs. There were complaints about spores and all those other things in the Ministries and health causing problems, so we had to occupy the Stadium and the Petro Caribè building. And, now that we are back in the Ministry, the affected

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Ministry, we are back into the Ministerial Complex, they can now move there, Mr. Speaker. But, they have done a significant amount of work, Mr. Speaker, and so we have before us now the Regulations to do with respect to Tariff, Mr. Speaker. And, so, as we go through the final consultation with the public on this staff regulation, the Public Utilities Commission will be implementing the Tariff Regulations, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)** And, this came about only after liberalizing the Electricity Sector. And, the Tariff refers to a return on investment, so you will work back. If the return on an investment is 8%, you will work back and calculate the rates, Mr. Speaker.

There are certain areas, for example in Dominica, a special group did not like when this was introduced, and they left Dominica. We hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to take a different footing here, and that Entity would respect the Tariff Regulations and the Regulating Authority of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission, because those Regulations were not done by the Government of Grenada. They were done by international experts, using best practices, worldwide, Mr. Speaker, and so everyone should be happy to abide with them. **(Applause)**

We also would be having the Grid Code. This is the technical specifications for operations in Grenada, the voltages and how you must interconnect between Entities, private producers, to ensure that we have a well-connected Grid, Mr. Speaker.

The Social Fund that is causing some anxiety, Mr. Speaker, the Grid Code, we are speaking to Legal Affairs and they will be preparing the Grid Code, and the Social Fund is operated in this way. The consumers would pay and it would show on the bill, a certain level, which would be equivalent to the same amount that is being expended now by the Government of Grenada and GRENLEC in doing social projects throughout the country, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, all the Consultants, and we see that there is a loophole in the mechanism, which allows the Company to cease the Social Fund, if they figure that there is not sufficient monies coming into them. This is not, Mr. Speaker, what we call social, corporate responsibility; this where the Entity **(time Bell Rings)** would take its own

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

funds... Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and can I be granted one more minute, to just wrap up, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Granted, granted.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Would take its own funds to do what it wants. But, now the public would be paying and this would go to the Social Fund, so whoever wants to stop anything can stop anything, but the Social Fund, Mr. Speaker, will continue, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just, again, during this last minute, Mr. Speaker, talk about Markets and to commend the Ministry, with respect to their achievements, so far. The Mirabeau Abattoir is in full operation, Mr. Speaker, slaughtering four (4) days a week, and on one day up to twenty-five (25) animals are being slaughtered, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

The Meat Market, in the Town of St. George, that is going on with its full repairs, Mr. Speaker, and in six (6) weeks it should be ready to accommodate the Cooling System. So, we are looking at two to three months, and that makeshift plan, which is working beautifully, that we have in the Town will move, Mr. Speaker, and we will have the Market in the Town of St. George in full operation, Mr. Speaker.

And just to mention, Mr. Speaker, that we have started with the repairs, or the resuscitation work, with respect to cleaning up our beaches and the sargassum. We have Contractors throughout Grenada, earmarked for the different Towns, at the different beaches, Mr. Speaker. We are listening to the comments of the people, and, of course, we will add, if we feel that by removing the sargassum on the beach, we are removing too much soil, then we will upgrade and ensure that the equipment that we get to do it, will do a proper job. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. George South-East. Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my other Colleagues, I do wish to congratulate you, of course, in your reappointment, as Speaker of this Honourable House, and I think, as my Colleagues have already indicated, your guidance and continued wisdom, certainly has been a major plus for this Honourable House. We would continue to look for that for the rest of this period of this five-year term.

Mr. Speaker, in giving some statements on my Prime Ministerial duties and Ministerial duties, I just want to first to thank, clearly, the people of North-West St. George, for their continued confidence in my representation, knowing that without their support, I wouldn't be here and noting, once again, that while they continue to give me this time, 86% of the Votes in that particular Constituency, which was lower than it was in '89 and the last period. Mr. Speaker, I do also want to congratulate all the new Members of this House and listening too today their presentation for the first time and to say that clearly there is an indication that this House, the quality of the representation of the people would certainly be something that we continue to look towards and continue to be highly appreciative of.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that understanding the problems that we have, the Constitutional limitations and the fact that we do have some areas of responsibility that requires to have some Members of the House not being Members of Cabinet, we want to thank the cooperation of the two Members of the Government Side who are now our back benchers to satisfy that basic condition, particularly the Member of St. Patrick West who has been a senior Member of the Government and could have command a place in any position in the present Government, to thank him for his cooperation and of course, the Member of St. George North-East for playing the role of making sure that we can satisfy our fundamental responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, just to say that we are proud of the fact as the Government, that we have received tremendous congratulations from all over the world, from friendly

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

Governments and people who recognise that while our results of the election has given a mandate to one party to the House of Representatives, that the question of the governance and the question of the people's understanding of the way we listen and the way we govern is certainly something that we cherish a lot and we will continue to do precisely this. The Member for St. George's Town, Mr. Speaker, has already mentioned that there were several visits abroad in New York, to Toronto, to London. One thing became very clear despite, in addition to the support that is given internationally to this Government, that in addressing and meeting with the Diaspora community, I noticed Mr. Speaker, quite a movement in terms of the response of the Grenadian Community abroad in the way they turned out in all those meetings and were prepared to commit themselves to continue to do what they can to promote the further development of our country. So I want to add my piece to this.

Mr. Speaker, I already announced and we are in fact doing this review of some of our major programmes, wanting to make sure that we can optimise the results of the programme in service to the people of the country. So we have in fact, are now in the closing stages of review of our House Repair, our Special Project, the Needy Assistance Programme and just to point out, Mr. Speaker, because of the, maybe the lack of clarity in the announcement that was made by the Governor-General, some people had it to say that the SEED Programme is also on hold. We want to say, the SEED Programme is not on hold, we are not... some of the problems that were evident in the House Repair, Special Project, Needy Assistance, we cannot say that about the SEED Programme and the way it was managed and implemented and that is to the credit of the Minister for Social Development and of course, our friends who have supported this programme consistently so. So that also and the School Books and Uniform Programme, that is not on hold, Mr. Speaker, also. In fact, only this morning I got a report that they are moving forward soon to send a report to Cabinet on that programme so that we can start looking at making sure that our vulnerable students and personnel have the support of that very important programme.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this to the different Ministries that's under my responsibility, to compliment the work being done up to this point to the Ministry of Finance. Mr. Speaker, over the years, given the fact that we have had a change, we have a new period of governance for five years and there are in fact, some changes in Ministerial responsibilities and of course in construct of Ministries, usually in the past we've done it, that we just continue business as usual and just paying people not necessarily correctly so as far as the legal situation is concerned. The Ministry of Finance this time advised us quite rightly so, that we have to do things right and we have to do things legally so and therefore the Ministry staff, the Budget Division most of them are here, they literally spend night and day. I was surprised at the extent of work that they had to do in coming up with a new document literally, they call it the consolidated document but in effect they had to come up with almost an entire document and therefore I just want to compliment.

I think **(applause)** we deserve to give them a good round of applause for their effort, Mr. Speaker. You see we are doing things that we have to, not just doing it, doing it right to the best of our ability, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister's Ministry, to say that also, the staff there and the new PS and others working together to bring the best results to the people of this country. The DPA and of course, the Ministry of National Security, they're all working together to improve the services to the country on a whole and the Physical Planning Unit is now under the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Mr. Speaker, we are working to ensure that we can give teeth to some of the initiatives of the Government to ensure that we have as much development in this country as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we are now looking at the National Transformation Fund and I think at tomorrow's post Cabinet, the Minister responsible for the Town of St. George, the Member responsible for Foreign Affairs and Labour would also be speaking about the National Transformation Fund and the initiative the Government to invest heavily in transforming Youth Development Programmes, skills through the Ministry of Education

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

and others, small business development, agriculture, the small Hotels Sector, in other words, giving teeth to the word National Transformation Fund, where we invested in transforming the economy of the country so we have the significant sums there and these are basically grant money which would not of course, affect our fiscal problem and making sure that we do what we have to do. **(Applause)** So those who were worried because we haven't started yet, don't worry, when we start you will see tremendous benefits from what we are trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, I just came from a presentation or a consultation with the IMF and its team who have been here for the last couple of weeks looking at the economy of the country and looking at some of the areas of investment and activities in the economy as a whole. And I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, I mean I sat there in awe to listen to them and their presentation and praising this country for what it has achieved and committing themselves to further development of this country and praising the staff of the Ministry of Finance for the work that they have been doing and saying that in effect that we're almost the poster boy, as far as the economic activity in the Region and many small states in general, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's a proud moment for this country, praising the social partners as the Member for the Town of St. George already mentioned the Trade Union Movement, the Business Community and all concerned for their support in helping us to reach where we are today at this particular time. So their report and this afternoon they will be doing a press conference so you would hear a lot more, Mr. Speaker, on what they perceive to be Grenada's success story, Mr. Speaker, at this point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I also just want to make the point that we are, in looking at our services and looking at many of the programmes we deliver to the people of this country, one has to always look at how we can improve on what we are doing, never be satisfied with just where we are and what we have done. So if we expect people to represent their constituency and to provide service, then we have to give them the ammunition and of course the necessary resources. We therefore have looked at our

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

***Statements by Ministers***

constituency organisation, the funding for constituencies and recognise that we have to upgrade what we are doing so while we look to ensure that we become far more accountable and transparent in these activities, we also must equip them appropriately, proper offices, proper equipment, personnel that can manage those offices and bring service. It's about the people, that's why we do not believe, like when initially we talked about the constituency support, we gave the Parliamentarian an amount of money, I remember in those days, fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Well I know for me, they gave me fifteen hundred and the bill every month was four, five thousand dollars, so I know that was no money and therefore invariably this hardly went anywhere in providing serious service to the constituency as a whole.

We don't believe in giving Parliamentarians any money because then people might accuse them of not using the money appropriately, but we have to fund the offices and that is the responsibility of the Parliament of the country and of course the governance of the country as a whole. So in addition to the staff already there, there will be additional staff, a manager with certain qualifications and of course the criteria would be established and that's coming soon. And Members, in fact, tomorrow we hope that our Members, our back benchers would be joining us tomorrow at 10 o'clock where reports on the constituency recommendations are going to be discussed because it has to be owned by us. So these reports, these recommendations are coming from the persons looking at the problems who have gone right around the country, have looked at all offices, every single Member of Parliament offices that exist, even those that didn't exist yet and make recommendation, how do we make sure that these constituencies can supply the kind of service to the people of the constituencies around the country.

That report would be to us, available and therefore will be discussed by the entire team and of course owned by us in the end. Therefore when that is completed very soon, hopefully we can start in the first week in June. But as I said to Members, I don't think we should rush to start, we should do it right, so if it takes an additional week or two, then let it be so. But the point is, when we start, we will be satisfied that we have

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

the resources and of course the commitment **(time bell rings)** to make sure that the people get their best service. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear I am not asking you for an extra minute. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. **(Laughter / Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Representative for St. George North-West. Sorry you didn't speak first. **(Laughter)** I know we are in the part that deals with Ministerial Statements, but since we have started and each Parliamentary Representative was given the opportunity to speak about or to make their reflections to the constituency, I would give permission now so that the Honourable Representative for St. Patrick West and the Honourable Representative for St. George North-East may wish to afford themselves of the time to...

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** In order, quite in order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. Patrick West.

**Hon. Anthony Boatswain:** Thank you, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A pleasant good morning to all the Members of this Honourable House. Mr. Speaker, I wish to start by first extending congratulations to you for being elected once again as the Speaker of this Honourable House. This no doubt, Mr. Speaker, is reflective of the very good work, the excellent work that you have done in the past in guiding the proceedings of this Honourable House and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the confidence that has been reposed in you to continue as our Speaker is not misplaced at all.

In this context also, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say how honoured I am to be elected as your Deputy. It is said that in all instances, a deputy is essential, but with you as Speaker, I don't think one is essential because you are capable of doing everything, but

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

I am there to assist you, Mr. Speaker, whenever you deem it necessary that I should do so.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new Parliamentarians who have been elected for the first time to serve in this Honourable House. I have listened to their presentations and I am indeed impressed at what I have heard and I'm quite sure that this country is in capable hands when some of us do bow out of the political scene in the not too distant future. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to one, a son of the soil, one of our own, Mr. Timothy Antoine who was recently conferred an Honorary Doctorate **(applause)** for his excellent work as a Public Servant. I have known the gentleman for a very long time, we have worked together in the Ministry of Finance in the technical capacity and when I was Minister for Finance and I can indeed say that Timothy is undoubtedly one of the best and his matriarch rise, Mr. Speaker, belies that confidence and that hard work that he is known for and it is not surprising that he has been so honoured by the St. George's University and I wish him well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity also to thank my constituency of St. Patrick West for reposing in me the confidence to represent them for yet another term. This is the fourth term that I have been elected to represent the people of St. Patrick West. On three of the previous occasions, Mr. Speaker, we won all of the seats in the Parliament and in one occasion, the other occasion, we won by the narrowest of margins. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I can indeed say I have been part of the history of this evolutionary process whereby the New National Party has been the dominant force in the political arena in our country. And I look forward to the party remaining a dominant force in the future because I believe that the policies and the principles of the New National Party are really in sync with what our national development requires at this time, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, in thanking the constituents of St. Patrick West, I also wish to assure them that I intend to spend the remainder of my term in Parliament in providing

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Statements by Ministers**

effective representation at the level of the constituency and in ensuring that the projects, the programmes of the New National Party are indeed implemented and that we bring the maximum benefit within the constraint of resources, however, to the people of St. Patrick West. **(Applause)**

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I wish to just mention a few of the projects that I am happy that are on stream or have been completed, for example the long awaited Guave Bridge in La Fortune is now complete. Before, the people were complaining there were no roads, they can't travel on the road, now they are complaining they want speed bumps because the motorist are just speeding over the bridge. **(Laughter)** So you just can't please everybody, but we are happy that the bridge is complete and I am looking forward working with the Ministry of Works so we can have some kind of official opening of that bridge which has long awaited and so welcomed by the residents and the travelling public of the people of St. Patrick.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Low income housing project in the villa in Sauteurs, is now on stream and we look forward to the completion of that project, providing over seventy (70) additional housing units, much needed housing units for the people of St. Patrick both East and West because we really cannot make that separation, we have to service the entire Parish of St. Patrick West.

Mr. Speaker, I want commend both Ministries, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports for seizing the initiative with regards to the Skills, Training and Furniture Production Centre that we have established in St. Patrick, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)** I was quite impressed by the presence of Ministers at the Centre, showing their enthusiasm, their support for the project with their technical staff and I'm prepared to work with them, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that this project becomes a reality. Because really, when you look at skills, Mr. Speaker, and I think the Minister spoke about this, NEWLO cannot accept any more students because the demand for skills is really great and in the next few years the question will be asked, not how many subjects, not how many CSEC subjects you have but how many skills that you do have, Mr. Speaker. That

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers**

is the direction in which the world is going and I'm looking forward to the speedy implementation of this project so we can create meaningful jobs for the people of the area and at the same time satisfy the need for additional furniture for our schools, Mr. Speaker. So I think there is a double impact of that project which would redound to the benefit of the entire country, Mr. Speaker. So I am pleased to see the interest that has been shown by the Ministers for Education, by the Ministers for Youth and Sports in this very, very important project.

Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to learn from the Minister for Works that the St. Patrick Road Project is now on stream. There are some critical bridges that need to be repaired and I'm happy that, as you said, although the funding that was approved cannot complete the entire project, but as Phase I is completed, we will move straight into Phase II, Mr. Speaker. This is an excellent move and I want to commend the Minister for Works for such a great initiative. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to report that the lighting of the Chantimelle Playing Field is now on. Very soon the polls will be up and that again is the fulfilment of a promise that we have made that we will provide most of the community playing fields with lights and this project, Mr. Speaker, is well on the way. Also I must indeed say that the fishermen's lockers at Darvey, is now provided with solar lighting and also with cold storage facility, something that is much welcomed by the people of the area and we look forward to further expansion of this project to include other activities in the area.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to make mention of the farm road, the third phase of the Farm Road Project, the people of Red Mud are eagerly awaiting the construction of that bridge and I promise them and I'm quite sure that the Minister for Works will fulfil that promise in ensuring that Phase III of the Farm Road Project comes on stream at a very early stage and we can provide the people of Red Mud with the necessary road and bridge that they asked for.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also looking forward in the not too distant future to the resumption of work on the Sauteurs Breakwater Project. The contractor had to pull out

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

his equipment to go to another project and to satisfy some other demands but we have been assured that once that is complete, he will return and have the second phase of that project continue which will involve **(cell phone disturbance)** another one hundred and fifty feet of the breakwater **(applause)** before we move into what the project was originally intended to provide, which is the... **(cell phone disturbance caused inaudible speech)** and we are hoping to work with the Private Sector in a PPP to ensure that we move into that phase of that project that will transform, Mr. Speaker, the Northern Part of our country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely pleased. I have my work cut out, I know that some of my constituents have been asking questions, but they need not worry. I am fully occupied and my cup is running over, **(applause)** Mr. Speaker. So I am happy where I am and I wish to assure them, do not worry everything will be okay, thank you very much Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Honourable Representative for St. Patrick West, cup runneth over, the rod and the staff, they'll comfort you. **(Laughter)** Honourable Representative for St. George North-East.

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make this presentation, and, first, let me join my colleagues in congratulating you, again, as you occupy the Chair of the Speaker in this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I remember rising in this House and I said, **'to God be the Glory, great things He has done.'** Mr. Speaker, I say this, again, today, **'to God be the Glory, great things He has done.'**

Mr. Speaker, as I reflect back on our last elections I cannot but go back to the people of St. George North-East for the extent of confidence that they have placed in me a second time. Because I came into St. George North-East a couple years ago, Mr. Speaker, almost a stranger in a strange land, but the Lord have blessed me abundantly

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Statements by Ministers*

and so He has given me favour in the eyes and to them I say a heartfelt thank you. To all my friends, my family, my supporters, to all my colleagues and when I talk about friends, family supporters, now, I have to talk about indeed Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, you know, there are some things that are just never said and if I quote from Chronixx, it says, **“the story of my life, ordinary people just like you, if you look inside you would see the great things that people do, changing lives day and night but nothing that I do ever make the news, still I have to do what is right; To the King of Kings all praise is due”** and, Mr. Speaker, he goes on to say that **“yesterday I was on a train, a little boy asked me my name, he said Sir I have seen you before, tell me who are you?”** He said, **“I am a legend that you never heard of before, I am a lion that you never heard roar, I’m a hero that nobody celebrate, but if one person remember my name that means I have made a change.”**

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here too I remember quoting from the book of Psalms 1 and you recited it with me and it says **“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law and in His law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season and whatever he doeth shall prosper. But the ungodly are not so, but they are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment or sitteth in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the ways of the righteous, but the ways of the ungodly shall perish.”**

Mr. Speaker, I stand here and I stand here, as a rock in this Parliament of our country. In the last five (5) years, Mr. Speaker, I stood and I questioned, I stood and I pondered and, Mr. Speaker, you know in the last five years of this House, only one question was asked in this Parliament, I think you remember only one question. And, we do not have minors in this House. But, I remember the Member from St. George

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Statements by Ministers  
Motions**

North-West saying that we, who sit here, not on the 'Other Side', but in this position, we are the gate-keepers to our democracy. And so, again, maybe we might just be again the gate-keepers to our democracy and hold us in this Honourable House, all fifteen (15) of us accountable so that we can be transparent and we can be accountable to our people. At the end of the day, we serve but at the behest of our people, and so we continue to do so.

I say, Mr. Speaker, if, at the end of the day and at the end of our time, if we are to do one thing to change somebody's life in our constituency, then we would have done what we should have done in our constituency, remembering that our resources are meagre, it has to be shared among fifteen constituencies, and sometimes we might even find more constituencies to share it among. And, so with our limited resources, Mr. Speaker, we would advocate for our people, so at the end of the day, whatever we do, because we come and go, we ebb and flow, this is the lives of our human factor here, that we are not here forever, but at the end of the day, let us be able to walk with our heads up with whatever constituency we serve. You know, I preach a little bit, Mr. Speaker, and I told my constituents that whatever happens, at the end of the day, I would be able to walk in St. George North-East with my head up and nobody can point fingers, because we did the best, at the time, with the service that we have. And so, again, Mr. Speaker, through you, I will purpose again in my heart to bring the best service that I can to St. George North-East, so at the end of the day, I can say again, to God be the glory. Thank you very much, and thanks to all my people. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Honourable Representative for St. George North-East.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 13 - Personal Explanation.  
Item 14 - Motions.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads, and that's Motion 14 (a)

**WHEREAS** debate on the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the First Session of the Tenth Parliament on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, was deferred to a date to be fixed;

**BE IT RESOVLED** that the said Address be now debated by the House.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 34, Amendment of Motion, I wish to propose an amendment to this Motion which reads:

**BE IT RESOVLED** that the said Address be now deferred to a date to be fixed.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion amended and approved.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name which reads:

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

**WHEREAS** Standing Order No. 69 (1) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives provides for the election of a Committee to be known as the Public Accounts Committee;

**AND WHEREAS** it is further provided that the Committee be selected at the first Sitting of each Session at which business of the House, other than the reading of the Throne speech is transacted;

**BE IT RESOVLED** that this Honourable House doth now elect the Members to the said Committee.

**Question proposed.**

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last General Elections gave us the identical results, and so we are still faced, Mr. Speaker, with, not so much a problem, but, Mr. Speaker, they are not too clearly outlined task of selecting members of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Speaker. We have been advised, both inside and outside on what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, but I want to repeat that we wish to ensure the general public that the constitution of the Committee is as such that the Government will withstand scrutiny, or the Government will be scrutinized in every respect.

And so, everything that we do, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that the accounts of the nation are properly scrutinized. In that context, Mr. Speaker, I wish to propose as Chairman of this Committee, Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie, and the Members, Honourable Tobias Clement and the Honourable Antony Boatswain, Mr. Speaker. I will be making these nominations. The Prime Minister has already indicated why certain construct must be done within his distribution of Ministries. And so, we have two (2) Members from the Lower House who must not be a Minister, clearly stated, must not be a Parliamentary Secretary and must not be involved in any way, in the governance of the country, except at the Parliamentary level. So I therefore

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Motions**

propose for this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker, that these three persons be the Members of the Public Accounts Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, the names we have is, Christopher De Allie (Chairman), Anthony Boatswain, and Tobias Clement. Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Mr. Speaker, the nomination of someone from the Senate, again, because we have made certain provision for when we do have all members of the Lower House coming from the governing Party, and that's the predicament facing us, Mr. Speaker. And, it must be shown clearly that it is not your persons who will be evaluating the accounts of your own Government. And, the only other place, Mr. Speaker, we could get such a person from the Parliament is from the Senate. So, the Constitution of this Committee, Public Accounts Committee, which by all merits is a House Committee. The Committee responsible for finances or the Chamber of the Parliament responsible for finances, in other words, it's the only Chamber from which a Money Bill can originate. Clearly under the Constitution telling you that this Chamber and this House of Parliament is responsible for finances, so then the Public Accounts Committee should come from this House. But who else, Mr. Speaker, even if the Prime Minister removes the portfolio for me and say you are a capable person, go there, what will it be seen as. Again, three Members from the same Party, Bowen to scrutinize even if, we will do a mammoth job of ensuring that the Government is on its toes, but what will the public see, three (3) members from the New National Party going to look at the work of the New National Party Administration. So, we are trying to adhere to the fact that it has to be a House Committee, but we have included this barrier here of it being totally people from the Governing Administration's Party, and someone outside. So, you keep the House people in there, there must be House people, and you put one Member from the 'Other Place', and not only just as an ordinary member, but to be Chairperson, Mr. Speaker, of the Committee. So, that

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

person will guide the investigative process and look at the workings of the New National Party Administration, Mr. Speaker.

So, we have criticism, by having someone from the 'Other Place', because that is not really their responsibility. But at the same time, we will have more criticism, and if we do not show that we will put people on a Committee, who will really look intensely at what the Administration is doing, Mr. Speaker. So this is one of the reasons why we have changed the Standing Order, again, under criticism from 'Other Sides'. Maybe, correctly so, Mr. Speaker, but we can see that this Administration, this Government is doing what is necessary to ensure that we get due and proper scrutiny of all the expenditures that we have made when in Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-East.

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Mr. Speaker, for the last five (5) years, I was a part of the Public Accounts Committee, and I see again we are coming with the same construct of the last Public Accounts Committee. I may ask the question, Mr. Speaker, it is said that the Public Accounts Committee or Members of the Public Accounts Committee can call other Members of the House, ask questions from Statutory Bodies, and I remember talking to the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee in the last Sessions that we had. And, I believe we almost came to a point where we had to sanction or we could have sanctioned such Member. Because, as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, one that is a member of the Public Accounts Committee can come into Parliament and ask questions or ask questions from what you are saying.

But, Mr. Chair, in the last Session it never happened, because the Member was sitting in the Senate, and he asked me the question, '**would I raise the question in Parliament or in the Lower House and I said no,**' and lo and behold, I saw something in the newspaper that was said on the news. So, if, through you, Mr. Speaker, that

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

serious questions were to arise and a Member from the Upper House wanted to ask questions in the Lower House, what construct would be put in place for that to happen, if I do so refuse or, I don't know. Maybe through our learned friend here, they might be able to give me some insight into the why this construct again.

I remember, yes, I heard the Member from St. George South-East, and the construct of the Public Accounts Committee, it is a House Committee, but here we are putting somebody from the Upper House into the Lower House Committee to satisfy whatever that we, how it is seen, but is it constitutional? Maybe not! Probably we might have to go into a certain further constitutional amendment to let some things happen. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, just for the talk.

**Mr. Speaker:** Okay, just to refer you to Standing Order 69 (3) (b), and this was amended so as to facilitate the situation that we were in the last time, and it says, **“Where there are no Members of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, one of the Senators appointed by the Governor-General, under Section 62 (2) of the Constitution of Grenada, shall be appointed by the House of Representatives as Chairman.”**

So, in the situation where you were asked to take the matter in, I think what can happen there is that the Chairman, who has to present the Report to the House, would send the Report of any issues that he has to the House for clarification, and if it becomes necessary, then we would have to answer the questions, the House would have to answer the questions. Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the issue basically is, we have to abide by the Standing Orders of the House, and the Member should really know this. So if he has a problem, as he has indicated, then a Motion could be moved to change the Standing Orders, so we can't break our rules that we have. So, if we have a problem then the Standing Order would have to be changed to accommodate the

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

concerns of their Member, but we could not do it arbitrary like this, because two wrongs don't make a right, and that's the point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. George North-West. So we stick with the... any amendment to be made, a Motion could be moved and the amendment made, when we do the amendment to the Standing Orders.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Mr. Chair, well I am not objecting, but since Senator De Allie is not in this House, I suppose that he was consulted and probably he did agree to the post that he is given in terms of Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, because he cannot object in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the names that are here and Senator Christopher De Allie has been consulted and will be consulted, I will make sure that he accepts. If he doesn't then it comes back to the House and the changes are made. Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a next Motion standing in my name which reads:

**WHEREAS** Standing Order No. 70 (1) of the House of Representatives Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of a Chairman and the two (2) Members to be known as the Standing Orders Committee which shall be elected as soon as may be after the beginning of each Session;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House doth now appoint the Members to the said Committee.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now propose the following persons to be on the said Committee, Honourable Gregory Bowen (Chairman), Honourable Kindra Maturine-Stewart (Member), and Honourable Tobias Clement (Member).

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Tobi, you get a chance now, change it.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the next Motion standing in my name, which reads:

**WHEREAS** Standing Order No. 70 (2) of the House of Representatives Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and four (4) Members to be known as the House Committee;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House doth now appoint the four (4) Members to the said Committee.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the following four (4) Members of the said Committee, Honourable Peter David (Member), Honourable Emmalin Pierre (Member), Honourable Alvin Da Breo (Member) and Honourable Delma Thomas (Member).

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a next Motion standing in my name which reads:

**WHEREAS** Standing Order No. 70 (3) of the House of Representatives Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and four (4) Members to be known as the Committee of Privileges which shall be elected as soon as may be after the beginning of each Session;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House doth now appoint the four members to this said Committee.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now propose the four Members to be, Honourable Clarice Modeste Curwen, Honourable Oliver Joseph, Honourable Yolande Bain-Horsford and Honourable Anthony Boatswain.

**Question put and agreed to.**

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

**Motion approved.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform the nation through the Honourable House that with the construct of the Committees, we have nearly equal, nearly fifty-fifty as you said, forty-seven percent (47%), fifty-three (53), both gender balanced. And so if we look at the Committees, Mr. Speaker, we will see that this is kept, except that in the case of the Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, we have no choice, in albeit, Mr. Speaker, we have two (2) ladies who are not on Committees. But this, Mr. Speaker, God's willing, as soon as we come again to reconstruct after the Throne Speech, those Members will be given the opportunity to serve, Mr. Speaker. And, certain Members now, even if they figure that they will want to afford them the opportunity at an earlier date, but we are looking at, Mr. Speaker, at the next Constitution of the Board, that these Members will get the opportunity to serve, and some of us who are already serving will get on to other places, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make this abundantly clear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Leader of Government's Business.

**(Inaudible comments)**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I stand to move the next Motion standing in my name. It reads as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Appropriation (2018) Act, 2017, No. 27 of 2017 provided for the State of Grenada for the year 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** it has become necessary to reallocate the amounts approved among certain Ministries;

**BE IT RESOVLED** that the amendments to the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2018 be approved.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, as this is a money Motion, I do wish to inform this Honourable House that I have the Governor-General's consent to proceed with this Motion.

Mr. Speaker, following March 13<sup>th</sup> General Elections, the Government sought to strategically realign the Ministries to ensure the efficiency of service, and, at the same time, to enhance the country's opportunity to access grants and concessionary resources that are available regionally and internationally. And, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, to optimize the work of the Government relative to the strengths of the individual Members of the Cabinet of the country.

Mr. Speaker, in this regard, we are seeking therefore to amend the Schedule of the Appropriation Act as was previously approved by this Honourable House. It must be noted, and I think that is extremely important, Mr. Speaker, that no additional funds would be appropriated. However, reallocations would be done with the funds as previously approved.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

As I pointed out earlier on, Mr. Speaker, in the past, what used to be the practices was we continue to spend. Someone is operating in one Ministry and they are being paid from another Ministry, sometime it's the PS, and sometimes it's the Minister. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, while it is not a corrupted act, it was not consistent with legal practices. And, therefore, we had to move to ensure and that's why I give credit to the present mini staff of the Ministry of Finance, particularly the Budget Division for the enormous amount of work because they are the ones who pointed out. **(Applause)** They are the ones who pointed out that we need to do it and in fact made the point that we need to go to a Finance Committee meeting to get approval before coming to this Honourable House. So, we want to really say that we deeply appreciate this.

Mr. Speaker, I will not necessarily go into the changes as reflected in the document, but I just want to highlight a few areas. The entire changes would be seen on the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting which should be a document presented to the Honourable House, which will be laid before, I assume before we leave here today.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the environment, natural resources like Forestry, Fisheries, then Disaster Management and Information and the work to be done in the Ministry is absolutely critical in the area, in this period of climate change. In fact, the IMF, the Leader of the IMF Team this morning in their presentation to myself and key members of the Government pointed out that the initiative to establish this new Ministry was very revolutionary and was applauded by the IMF on the International Organizations as one of the first. **(Applause)** So, Mr. Speaker, and they pointed out that the meeting held in Washington recently, I think in April that was led by the now Minister responsible for Climate Change was one of the best that they have seen and they complimented Minister Simon Stiell for his leadership and management and chairmanship of that meeting and they said they made Grenada proud. **(Applause)** That was the comments of the Member of the Head of Delegation and Members of the Team. So, he's telling you, Mr. Speaker... I was

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

***Motions***

supposed to be the one to Chair it; I wasn't able to Chair it, but we lost nothing, Mr. Speaker, that's the strength of the present construct of this Government of this country.

**(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, we cannot sit idly by, having seen the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. It is therefore imperative that we position this country to become more resilient to environmental shocks. Towards this end, an allocation of seventeen point four million (\$17.4 m) has been reallocated for the work of that particular Ministry.

The realignment of the implementation on Energy Division under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Public Utilities, Energy, Transportation, Implementation, formerly known as the Ministry of Works was required for obvious reasons.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that we have implementation challenges. We have lots of money, lots of soft loans and soft monies sitting here that we have not been able to utilize. So, the necessity for strengthening that Ministry of Works under which most of these projects fall was critical. And therefore, the Ministry of Climate Change would be working very closely with the Ministry of Works and so too is the Ministry of Economic Development and Technical Cooperation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic and Physical Development formerly referred to as the Ministry of Finance and Energy has now taken over the portfolio of Economic Development and Physical Development. We believe that this alignment would improve the economic policy formulation and planning. Accordingly, twenty-seven million dollars (\$27M) was moved from the Ministry formerly known as the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Planning to the Ministry of Finance. Mr. Speaker, it is fundamentally important to reiterate that understanding of the reallocations, that the 2018 Estimates of Expenditure remain at one billion, one hundred and twelve million, thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars (\$1,112,039,938). In other words, we have not increased or reduced the original budget amounts, Mr. Speaker, and that is significant.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

One other point, I need to make, I remember at the meeting that I had after the General Elections with the Trade Union Movement, they were concerned that we had in the process of the Post 2013 Election, I had announced and we had in fact implemented where Members of Parliament who were not Ministers were paid Minister's salary and they had serious concern. I promised them that was not going to be repeated, and therefore, only Ministers, Members of Parliament who are Ministers would be receiving Minister's pay. So, Mr. Speaker, sometimes we do things, in retrospect, we recognize that it's not going down well and we are prepared to make correction to do so. So, therefore, Mr. Speaker, on that note, I commend this Motion for passage in this Honourable House. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, the question is, oh, Honourable Representative for St. Patrick East.

**Hon. Pamela Moses:** Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion to approve the amendments to the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I do so in light of the changing needs of society, particularly, in the area of skills development and the demands made to our Ministry of Education for CVQ Certification for our young people, but especially for those between the age group, our men and women who are between the ages of thirty-five (35) and about fifty (50). They may have dropped out of school, Mr. Speaker; most of them are unemployed. Mr. Speaker, we want to afford them this opportunity to give them that second chance in life, to help them to provide for their families. We want to provide them with the necessary skills that they would need to market themselves in the ever changing job market out there and so I stand in support of this Bill. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Patrick East.  
Honourable Representative for St. George North-East.

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Motions**

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Mr. Speaker, I rise because I do believe sometimes we can create a firestorm where firestorm is not necessary. On the last point made by the Member for St. George North-West, I do understand the context in which he speaks, in terms of Ministers salaries and what Ministers get paid. And, Mr. Speaker, I took real blows for that because I spoke the truth.

Mr. Speaker, on the books of the Budgetary Document you would see, Ministers are paid \$67,000 per year, just over five thousand dollars (\$5000) with other benefits. And, Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to the media at a certain time, it was that I was talking about, you know; the pay of a Minister in Grenada. Now, Mr. Speaker, you have to understand that the salary of a Minister sometimes is below the PS in the Ministry which they serve, maybe all the time. But, Mr. Speaker, you have your Ministry to run and you have also your Constituency to run. Now, Mr. Speaker, in light of that, I ask the question, the salary of a Minister was there from since 1999, it has not changed. Moreover, so, Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. George North-West said that I would not be paid or backbenchers, the salary of a Minister, so I will get the salary of a Parliamentarian. Mr. Speaker, as I sit here in this House and serve the Parliament of our country on the books, it is twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) a month, twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) a month and when I clamour for change, I speak even to this.

Mr. Speaker, when I serve in this House it's not about the monies, but I said to them before that if we want to recruit the best and the brightest to serve our country, those who live by the sword, they said you should die by the sword, so if you preach the Word too, you should live by the Word. And, in this case, Mr. Speaker, you know I remember she had left us, she says to me, Member from St. Andrew North-West, that by the middle of the month she has to dig in her son's little piggy bank. The former Member from St. Patrick East said to me, when I pay my house mortgage and my car mortgage, I have six hundred dollars (\$600.00) left and I am the MP for the area. But, Mr. Speaker, compare Grenada to the rest of the OECS country or the rest of the

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Motions**

Windward Islands and let us make a change because my Members here or my colleagues would be clamouring for it you know, but they would not say a word, **(laughter)** they would not say a word.

Which one of you today would stand up and support me, maybe none; or which one of you would say, no, let us leave it as it is. And, in the past when I asked about it, it was never the right time, from since 1999 to now, Mr. Speaker, twenty (20) years. Who? I mean we have the Union for Public Workers; maybe we should have somebody for Parliamentarians. **(Laughter)** Mr. Speaker, if my hands are forced and it is forced... Mr. Speaker, thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. George North-East. I noticed you get a resounding round of applause. Honourable Representative for St. Patrick West.

**Hon. Anthony Boatswain:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for St. George North-East, he has made a very important point with regards to salaries of Ministers which we all agree, but there are times when circumstances would not permit that Ministers get more than what they are getting now. And maybe this is one of the times when, you know, an increase for our Ministers cannot be entertained. That be as it may, Mr. Speaker, I want to address another issue and with all due respect to my friend from North-East, I believe and I'm saying it now that I thought it was a serious mistake and I'm saying it, not to anger anyone, I believe it was a mistake that was made when Parliamentarians who were not Ministers got the same salary as a Minister; I thought it was a mistake. **(Applause)** Because, really, when you look at Minister you have, as a Parliamentarian you have to do the work of a Parliamentarian and a Minister and I could not see any justification in that, notwithstanding my good friend what he said. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a fundamental injustice in what Parliamentarians receive and again this is a historical defect that must be remedied

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Motions**

because in the past once you are elected, automatically you become a Minister and you get a Minister's salary and therefore they put on something, a little thousand dollars for Parliamentarians. Can one expect a Parliamentarian to survive on one thousand dollars (\$1000) a month? And, that was an error and we have never corrected that error, Mr. Speaker.

Parliamentarians who have to represent their people cannot survive on one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), but at the same time they cannot get the same salary as a Minister. I don't think it's right. But, there must be something that will allow you to perform your duties as a Parliamentarian representing your people because they still come to you, they want a cylinder of gas, they want assistance, your Party in Government, you will tell them no, you can't give them, but what will you give them on, if you do not have another job. And, we never corrected that, Mr. Speaker, because everybody who was elected ended up in the Cabinet.

You cannot expect everybody to be in a Cabinet and we have said that before, and I think we continue doing that, once you elected you must be in Cabinet. You were not elected to be in Cabinet, being in Cabinet is at the prerogative of the Prime Minister. He could decide who he wants in his Cabinet and no one should argue as to who the Prime Minister decides to put in his Cabinet. That's his right, but at the same time we must recognize that as an elected Representative of the people, you cannot expect them to be out there as a beggar and say you get one thousand dollars (\$1000) a month and not knowing whether he has another job. How can we survive on that? We have to correct that defect, Mr. Speaker. And, I think we are taking too long to correct that defect. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. Patrick West.

**(Honourable Tobias Clement rose)**

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

*Motions*

**Mr. Speaker:** Are we on the same topic?

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Same issue.

**Hon. Tobias Clement:** Same issue, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the debate ensue here, I would go back to history now. In 1837, that's a long time ago, Mother Country, England, we had the same problem in England, 1837, among Parliamentarians and the Parliament at the time moved to correct that issue because when Parliamentarians and Ministers were not properly compensated, it was found out that corruption steps in. We hear about greasing the hands and greasing the wheel, it was in the Parliament of England back then when Parliamentarians were not properly compensated, you held a Ministerial position, so you do something for somebody, you give them contracts and because... and so I'm reminded again that the English System moved to correct that injustice in the system. And, I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to do so. And, I quite agree with you. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Honourable Representative for...

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, in closing the discussion on this Motion, I just want to remind the Member for St. George North-East, he is a stickler for rules, he has always been on standard for rules. The rules of the House are very clear; a Member cannot stand up twice on a Motion. The Member, Mr. Speaker... unless the Speaker so gives him the authority to do so to speak. I was silent; so, I'll just make the point for what it's worth, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the comments of the two (2) Members, St. Patrick West and St. George North-East, and by and large I think we all share those

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

***Motions***

fundamental concerns. I therefore, wish to inform the Members and inform the nation, maybe I should have done it in the Ministerial Statement, but I was trying to keep within my time. I didn't want to look like a beggar, Mr. Speaker, that I have announced to the Cabinet already, that we intend to appoint a Committee, a three-Member Committee of our top Public Servant, a member from the Business Community and a representative from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to review the salaries of all Ministers and Parliamentarians accordingly and to make recommendation to the Cabinet and by implication to the Parliament of the country to correct this problem because it is in fact a serious problem. There are some of us who might be able to survive based on our own independence, but it cannot be based on this. It's correct, we cannot expect persons to serve and at the same time not give them any resources and any increase that is even mentioned while everybody else can get any increase, the noises are heard as if the Parliamentarians must not get nothing at all.

But, the same persons who feel they shouldn't get are the same ones who come and ask the Parliamentarians for everything. They don't ask anybody else. I know it, Mr. Speaker, when I was Leader of the Opposition, what I got could not buy the gas that I used to go around to do the work of the Leader of the Opposition. So, I understand the problem, but as I mentioned before, one, the Parliamentary offices would be fortified accordingly to deal with services to the communities, so it removes a lot of pressure from the Parliamentarians. The budget allocation would have to be made to deal with this, and of course, Ministers, based on the recommendation of the Committee, I hope, it will be an independent Committee, would be meant to correct this. It cannot be fair that a Minister who is head of a Ministry is getting far less salary, sometime ten thousand (\$10,000) and less and more, less than the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry or other staff members who sometimes earn salaries three and four times because of a technical capacity that they are bringing to the Ministry and to the Government and the country. It just does not make sense. And, I think I just want to mention that in fact this is something in train and hopefully within a couple months we

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Motions  
Bills**

should be able to correct this anomaly. In other words, by the time we reach to the next Budget, we should not be seeing this unfairness or imbalance in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in the country. Give jack his jacket, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Members who commented on the Motion and just to say I commend the Motion for passage. **(Applause)**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 15 - Bills.

**Mr. Speaker:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce for first reading, a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Constitution of Grenada (Caribbean Court of Justice and Renaming of Supreme Court) (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

**Clerk:** An Act to alter the Constitution of Grenada to provide for the establishing of the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final appellate court for Grenada in substitution for Her Majesty in Council and to provide for the renaming of the Supreme Court in Grenada to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and other justice-related matters, shortly entitled, Constitution of Grenada (Caribbean Court of Justice and Renaming of Supreme Court) (Amendment) Act, 2018.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I stand to move the first reading of the Bill entitled Appropriation (2018) (Amendment) Act, 2018.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Bills**

**Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Appropriation (2018) Act, 2017 to reallocate the sum not exceeding one million, one hundred and twelve million, thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars as appropriated by the Appropriation (2018) Act, 2017 for the service of the State of Grenada for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to facilitate the reorganisation of the expenditure Vote to reflect the Ministerial Portfolios as effected on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, shortly entitled, Appropriation (Amendment) Act, 2018.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I therefore now move that the Relevant Standing Order of this House be suspended to enable us to take this Bill through all stages at this Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, take this opportunity to move the second reading of this Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Bills**

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I just need to inform this Honourable House that I do have the Governor-General's consent to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, we have just done the Motion that deals with the consolidated Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2018, and we in fact, explained the purpose and the reason for the Motion, and this is the Bill that now gives support to the detailed aspects of the Motion, as presented with the document here that is laid on the Table to the Honourable House before we started. Therefore, I commend the second reading of this important Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill, as a whole, Mr. Speaker. I don't see us talking about Vote-by-Vote, because we have already presented and the outline of the changes were made in the document and in the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting. So we can take the Bill, as a whole, which, of course, would shorten the period of time at the House Session, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Bill read a second time.**

**House in Committee.**

**House resumed.**

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

**Bills**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell:** I now move, Mr. Speaker, the third reading and passage of this Bill.

**Question put and agreed.**

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Representative for St. George North-West.

**Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell:** To now do the job of the Leader of Government Business, which is...

**Mr. Speaker:** Please proceed. I think he has designated you Leader of Government's Business.

**(Laughter)**

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

**Adjournment**

**Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell:** Request for leave to move the adjournment of this House sine die, Mr. Speaker.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. Speaker:** At the Adjournment, let me say, since everybody had a chance, all Parliamentary Representatives had a chance to speak, I just want to say this for the benefit of the newer Members of the House, in the future, the Members of Parliamentary Representatives can use this time, at the Adjournment, to speak to your Constituency. So, you should use that opportunity, at this time, to speak to your Constituency, in the future, I am talking about, not now. You are not getting no time to speak to that now; in the future, at the Adjournment, you would get time to speak.

And, I want to, again, remind us to get very well acquainted with our Standing Orders, which would require us to look at timing, so you would not have to ask for additional time, and you would not get up to ask or speak when the Standing Orders did not give you permission, because I would have to ask you to, please, take your seats. So, I urge you to pay careful attention to the Standing Orders. Leader of Government's Business.

**Hon. Gregory Bowen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Adjournment on a very important issue, and that is the delay in the opening and use of the Houses of Parliament Project. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Presiding Officers, as well as the Clerk do have important information in this regard.

But, Mr. Speaker, the delay in the opening of the Houses of Parliament, we know it was planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, but that project was being assisted in its implementation and management by the United Nations Office of Project Supervision (UNOPS), a very well-recognised and reputable Institution. We went through all the

**House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

***Adjournment***

procurement process, the construction of the building, with respect to the bricks and mortar, that is on schedule, Mr. Speaker, so we can go and sit in the building.

However, the electronics component, and that would allow for the Clerk and other officers of the Parliament to go from speech to words and to do a lot with the security. In fact, the cables are already in the conduits in the building, but the equipment, which was ordered, would not reach in Grenada on time. And, this came about because the supplier, suddenly, after being contracted to provide the equipment, suddenly indicated to us that they will no longer be able to provide the equipment; and not only that they will not be able to provide it within the time required, they will not be able to provide it at all. So, this having arisen, Mr. Speaker, we had to go back out to tender. Remember the monies are supported and given by friendly countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Government of the Republic of Mexico, operated by UNOPS, and the Procurement Rules require that you tender, evaluate and take the best bid. So, we have to go back out, Mr. Speaker. When this thing should have been here, maybe the beginning of May, to be installed, so that we can open on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, we now have to go back through a tendering process, that will require, at least twenty-one (21) days to make a decision, and then you may have to manufacture some of those bits of equipment, then it is a further month or so, Mr. Speaker, so we had no choice, but to postpone it. So, it was not the fault of the Management Team, neither was it the fault of the Government, it was the fault of the suppliers.

And, now, Mr. Speaker, we cannot go to sue the supplier for the embarrassment caused to us. So, they simply said we cannot supply you, whether or not they have a bigger order, because this order was somewhere in the six digit figure, hundreds of thousands of US dollars. But, if they have a billion worth of contract and this little thing is hampering them, of course, they would go with the billion worth of dollars. So, there we are today, having to go out and tender, using a different supplier. One concern I know the Presiding Officers and all of us have, Mr. Speaker, is that the persons that we went to, they are the best, undoubtedly so. By saying that, it doesn't mean that another

*House of Representatives Meeting  
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre  
On Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.*

***Adjournment***

Company cannot make equipment, as good, as they are making, but we have lost them and we are now in the process of retendering, Mr. Speaker, and a new date would have to be set, at this time. Perhaps, we should make sure that the equipment arrives in Grenada before we set a date and that would prolong the opening date, Mr. Speaker. So, I wish to advise this Honourable House, accordingly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you. Thank you very much, Honourable Leader of Government's Business for that explanation.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House adjourned sine die @ 1:15 p.m.**

**PREPARED BY**

**HANSARD REPORTERS**

Mrs. Bernice Horsford-Bridgeman

Miss Janelle Palmer

Miss Sadio Bayne

Mrs. Raquel Morgan

**EDITORS**

Mr. Andrew Augustine (Clerk of Parliament, Ag.)

Miss Daniele Blackman (Administrative Secretary)