



GRENADA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

**Second Session of the Tenth Parliament**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

---

**SENATE**

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019

## Table of Contents

Attendance.....	3
Prayers .....	4
Minutes .....	4 – 7
Announcements .....	7 – 9
Ministerial Statements.....	9 – 48
Questions .....	48 – 56
Motions .....	56
Bills .....	56 – 92
Adjournment .....	92 – 97

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Attendance***

**PRESENT**

Senator the Honourable Chester A. A. Humphrey	- President (In the Chair)
Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information
Senator the Honourable Judd Cadet	- Member
Senator the Honourable Norland Cox	- Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts
Senator the Honourable Dr. Winston Garraway	- Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information
Senator the Honourable Cathisha Williams	- Member
Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts	- Member
Senator the Honourable Kerryne James	- Member
Senator the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead	- Member
Senator the Honourable Dr. Dunstan Campbell	- Member
Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie	- Deputy President

**ABSENT**

Senator the Honourable Kim George	- Member (Excuse tendered)
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	- Member (Excuse tendered)

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

*Prayers  
Minutes*

**The Sitting began at 9:00 a.m.**

**Mr. President:** Good morning, Honourable Members. Senator the Honourable Norland Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Let us pray.

*(Senate Prayer was said)*

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Honourable Members, please join me in the Lord's Prayer.

*(The Lord's Prayer was said)*

**Mr. President:** Pray be seated.

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

Item 4 - Confirmation of Minutes.

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 be taken as read.

**Question put and agreed to.**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Minutes**

**Minutes taken as read.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 be confirmed.

**Question proposed.**

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** I have a question, Mr. President.

*(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)*

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Yes, just for clarity. And, I'll give reference to this for example, say page...

**Mr. President:** Which page are you referring to?

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** The first one.

**Mr. President:** Okay. Alright. Sorry about that. You have the floor. It is just that I am trying to manipulate the system to make it work. I find it so loud. Page 17?

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Page 17, "The under-mentioned Member...", I am starting from the top of the page. "The under-mentioned Member spoke..."

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Minutes**

**(Sound of system vibrating)**

**Mr. President:** Hello. Clerk, what seems to be the problem? Senator Roberts, you have the floor, please.

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Okay. What I've noticed going through the Minutes is that on the Government Side there is never a name, but on the Opposite Side there is always a name, so I don't know if ...

**Mr. President:** I don't know, but if you just put your eyes on the Government Side, you will see the under-mentioned Member, Senator the Honourable Kim George, that's a Senator on the Government Side, and I am assuming that fundamental Members spoke in respect of the matter that you are raising at the top of page 17, then you will notice it has... **(Break in the audio)**

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Okay. Even if it's one Government Business, on the 'Other Side', even if you look on page 9 it says: "Minister of State with responsibility for Disaster Management and Information." All I am saying is that a name should go with it, the person's name.

**Mr. President:** Alright. Clerk, could we reconstruct to include those? I mean, it doesn't change the factual account of the Minutes **(Break in audio)** and we could just do this throughout. Okay. Yes. Where are we now?

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

**Mr. President:** Our position now is that the Minutes be taken as read. Senator Stiell.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Minutes  
Announcements**

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber... **(Break in audio)**

**(Inaudible comments by the President)**

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Ok.

**Mr. President:** ...for the records, the same thing here. Proposition now is that the Minutes be taken as read.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** ...to be taken as read.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

**Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 be confirmed.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 6 - Announcements by Mr. President.

**Mr. President:** Honourable Members, if I may, we have received notices of absences from Senators. Senator Christopher De Allie, who is out of State on medical,

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Announcements**

personal business and Senator André Lewis, who is absent by virtue of the fact that his Trade Union is today having its General Council Meeting, at the Tri-Annual Conference taking place today at the National Stadium. I don't have any other absences; Mr. Clerk? **(The President conversed with the Acting Clerk in private)** Yes, I just thought, so that you would know.

Honourable Members, between the last Sitting of the House and now, we suffered the loss of three (3) Senators, who were deceased... **(Break in audio)** ...Hubert Basanto Fletcher, Jacqueline Cornwall and Alphonsus Antoine.

**(Break in audio)**

**Mr. President:** Senator Jacqueline Cornwall served in 1999 for one year and formed part of the Committee responsible for reviewing the Domestic Violence Bill. Her passion was on women's issues and she worked tirelessly with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and as President of the Grenada National Organisation of Women (GNOW).

Mr. Hubert Basanto Fletcher served in the Parliament from 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1978 until the collapse of the then People's Revolutionary Government in October of 1983.

Mr. Antoine served from 1984 to 1990 and his contributions, as we would have learnt were quite outstanding. He was an Agricultural Economist. He lectured at the University of the West Indies for some time. He was a Consultant in Agricultural Economics throughout several Governments, including the People's Revolutionary Government, the Government of Jamaica and he did do some consultancy work with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. He served, for a period, as OAS Ambassador to St. Lucia and in respect... **(Break in Audio)**

I don't quite understand what's happening with this mike system. I would ask that, as a mark of respect and as a salute to the service that they gave to this House and to the country, as a whole and to the further enrichment of our Parliamentary Democracy, that we stand for a moment of silence and we take the opportunity,



***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Announcements  
Ministerial Statements***

although we had done it earlier by conveying to the families our respective condolences, which we did by card and the issuance of wreaths. So, a moment of silence in recognition and in respect of the Senators: Hubert Basanto Fletcher, Jacqueline Cornwall and Alphonsus Antoine.

***(Moment of silence observed).***

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Honourable Members. Pray be seated. We are having some difficulty with this anyway. Honourable Members, today is Down Syndrome Day. It's a day when we reflect and express our empathy with those in our own community, as well, as internationally, who have suffered and are suffering from this very debilitating neurological illness. It is my hope that sometime not too far from now, modern medical sciences will be able to address this disease... **(Break in Audio)**.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 7 - Ministerial Statements

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Norland Cox.

**Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts, Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I stand to give some report on work within the Ministry and Portfolios that I am responsible for which is the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts. **(Break in Audio)** Yes, good it is back.

As an independent Nation and through the Youth Department, we had a very important Session here, in this Honourable House, which is our Youth Parliament Session and I want to take this opportunity just to congratulate the twenty-five (25) young persons ... **(Break in audio)**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

Mr. President, time and time again we continue to include our youths and to ensure that we have a some mechanism in place for transitioning and giving them the opportunity to experience what we do here, from time to time, as regards to the Nation's business and the importance of the Parliament to this Nation, and so we endeavour to continue this activity throughout this Term, and, of course, we do hope that the Nation continues to experience this activity, going forward for decades.

Mr. President, also, we want to continue to focus on the issue of Skills Development. We recognize that this is an area that is critical towards our young persons, getting an opportunity to access jobs, not only in Grenada but in the wider, regional International Community, and we recognize it's an area of weakness, not just for Grenada, but also for the Region, as a whole, and we... **(Break in Audio)** ...in that regard and we have, currently, ongoing a Furniture Making Project in Petite Martinique, where ten (10) young men are involved in making furniture, learning to make furniture and we want to continue to move forward with this project and to incorporate shipwright, boat building, going forward, as another initiative through this very said project, in Petite Martinique. As you know Petite Martinique has a history for boat building and providing this country and also the Region and International Communities with some of the best seamen in the world.

Added to that, Mr. President, we already have the standards for boat building that was done through the initiative with the National Training Agency, and so those standards are already there, so it's just a matter for us to implement those standards now, through training initiatives.

Also, Mr. President, we have been working on a Youth in Agriculture Project, and we are working on the concept right now. We are looking forward to sharing what we have before we launch. We are planning to launch sometime in June, and I am hoping that we also can get my colleague Senator, Dr. Dunstan, even to participate, in terms of looking at the document and making an input, the Farmers' Rep, to ensure that all our stakeholders do have some input into this project, and to ensure that we do the best for

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

our young people, in terms of giving them an opportunity to excel in the area of Farming.

This is a very important project for us, Mr. President, and we are looking to target about a hundred (100) young persons, over a five (5) year period, through this Programme, in various initiatives. So, as we continue to finalise that document, more will be brought to the Nation through this Agricultural initiative.

Mr. President, also, we continue to train, again, our young people, and soon, sometime later in an April and early May, we have a training initiative planned for twenty-five (25) young persons, who are going to be getting some training in Safety at Sea and Firefighting through a programme what is called: 'Standards Training Certification & Watch-keeping Programme'; that is an international certification, Mr. President. This will allow our young persons to have this certificate that will allow them to be able to get a job, on a vessel, in any international country, in any international Port; for example, on Cruise Ships, wherever. So, this is critical for us. It affords them to be able to access jobs in the Maritime Industry, that is one of the largest area where we have vacancies for jobs, and this will ensure that we provide all the opportunities necessary that is before us, so that our young persons can be able to access training. As we know youth unemployment is a big challenge for us in the Region, Mr. President.

Mr. President, moving on to Culture, Mr. President, we continue to not to underestimate the work that we are doing in the Ministry of Culture. It is an area that is very important for the development, not only just for our young persons but for the Nation as a whole. Mr. President, we want to take this opportunity, again, to congratulate all our Artistes, who would have been successful in the recently concluded Trinidad Carnival. We want to thank them for representing Grenada and continue to represent us, as they go out in the world. **(Applause)**

Mr. President, as you know, we have our Carnival coming up, and we are looking to launch our Spicemas Carnival on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. And, Mr. President, as a good consequence, as a positive consequence, we were trying, very hard, to ensure that we would have had those Artistes here for our launch. But, Mr. President, they are all

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

booked up and so in one way we are unable to have them, but in a good way, we are happy that they are out there and they are in high demand and, of course, they are benefiting, financially, and otherwise and so we are happy for them. But, we are looking at some other measures to see how we can incorporate them, still, within the launch, Mr. President, and we want to congratulate them in their efforts.

Mr. President, also to congratulate the Carriacou Carnival Committee and all the persons who were victorious in winnings, like the Queen Show and the Calypso Show and the Groovy and even the Bands, we want to congratulate them, and we want to thank them for supporting the Carriacou's culture and Carriacou's development through Carnival, Mr. President, and we wish them all the best, going forward, for 2020.

**(Applause)**

Mr. President, sometime in November, we were engaged by the Roy Cape Foundation, who were desirous of working with us here in Grenada to develop culture through our National School Orchestra and, recently, I think yesterday or day before they would have made a donation to Grenada, through the National School Orchestra of a number of Orchestra instruments. Mr. President, this is one of the excellent initiatives that we want to really reiterate how much our School Orchestra is very elated to have these instruments, and we want to thank the Roy Cape Foundation for this gracious support, in terms of donation to the development of Culture in Grenada, Mr. President. **(Applause)**

2019, this year's CARIFESTA would be taking place in August, in Trinidad. We continue to prepare, to participate, as a country, to ensure that we go and display our talents and to share it together with the entire world. More will be said about that in the coming weeks, as we prepare for that important activity.

Mr. President, the Simon Cultural Center, we continue to work towards realizing that the initiative, in bringing back the Simon Cultural Centre, and we have just completed the surveys for the area, that is earmarked for rebuilding, and soon after we are going to commence with fencing the site; securing the site. We are also working, simultaneously, on the design and concept. And, I did recall, Mr. President, that that

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

would be a good opportunity for us to also share the concepts and designs with persons within the Diaspora to get their input and to ensure that we have the best facility that is required for our development through the Símon Cultural Center. So, Mr. President, your suggestion is duly noted.

Mr. President, in Sports, we want to just to inform the Nation on a couple of important developments in Sports. Currently, Mr. President, we have on the Port a Stone Roller that is being cleared and that is earmarked for Sports in Carriacou. Mr. President, this is an important piece of equipment, and now that we have cricket taking place in Carriacou, they have had some challenges with their current Stone Roller, and so the Ministry of Sports saw the need, and we have a new Stone Roller for Carriacou, Mr. President, and sometime later this week, or next week, for sure, that Stone Roller will be going to Carriacou. Mr. President, we want to... **(applause)**, ...this Stone Roller will support cricket initiatives like the Carriacou Cricket Masters Tournament, which will be taking place later on in April, Mr. President, and also the Cricket that is ongoing, the National Cricket Competition that is ongoing, currently.

Mr. President, through Netball, we continue to train, and persons over in Carriacou, as well. We had official Coaches from the Ministry of Sports going to Carriacou to impact training over there in Carriacou, to ensure that Carriacou is not left out of the training and development.

Also, we had our Physiotherapist, who went over to Carriacou, as well to offer training to our PE teachers, so that if, for some reason, somebody has some injuries, some challenges during a Sporting Activity, because we don't have a Physiotherapist, on site, the PE teacher may know some basic techniques, to apply, to ensure the safety of that Athlete until they can see a Physician. **(Applause)**

Mr. President, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate a number of Athletes and Sporting Personnel, who would have done well for themselves and Grenada, recently, and we want to start off with Emmanuel Stewart, who is the first Carriacouan to become a member of the Windward Islands original Cricket Team; Regional Cricket Team **(applause)**. Mr. President, that is a significant achievement for

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

himself, his family and the people of Carriacou to break that glass, so that we have somebody who is on the original Cricket Team. Mr. President, no doubt, we believe that he will continue to go on to become a member of the West Indies National Senior Men's Team. That will be a significant achievement for us as a country and, of course, as the Islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where his Mom is from.

Mr. President, we also want to congratulate Jamora Alves. During the recently concluded Grenada Athletics Association National Champs, fifteen year old Jamora Alves broke the National Junior record in Shot Put. Her distance was 13.08 meters. Mr. President, we want to congratulate her... **(applause)** ...she is set to represent us in CARIFTA, coming up between the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, Mr. President.

Also, seventeen year old Kelsey, who has been outstanding for us. She again; 17 year old Kelsey, she broke her old Shot Put record and setting a new record of 14.55 meters, that was her old record, and her new record is 15.91 meters **(applause)**. Mr. President, we knew that she was going to continue to develop and do better, and we are seeing it, Mr. President, and we believe that she is going to Medal again, come, CARIFTA, this year.

Also, Neconia George, Mr. President, broke her six-year-old record, at the Games, in Triple Jump. The record is 12.20 meters and her new distance is 12.5 meters, so we want to congratulate her, too, as well **(applause)**.

I know that we are short on time, but I just want to also congratulate the Grenada Under-17 Football National Team, at the CONCACAF Games that's taking place, and we just recently defeated St. Vincent, 2-1. We are currently in fourth position and we are scheduled to play in Nicaragua sometime next week Thursday, I believe. Mr. President, we want to congratulate them and wish them all the best, going forward **(applause)**.

Just two more items, Mr. President. We know that we are working together with the Grenada Swimming Association to realize our Aquatic Center where we can have an International Pool, where we can host Events. Recently, they had a visit from the supplier for the pool, mortar pools, in Grenada. As you know, Government would

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

invested in that initiative by donating the land to GASA for the site for that facility, so we continue to work together to ensure that we have that very soon. They are continuing to raise funds. I do not know how much money they have raised, so far, but I know that they are working very hard to ensure that they raise all the funds, together with the Grenada Olympic Committee, to ensure we realise that Facility, but more on that will be coming.

Mr. President, just two (2) more things. In terms of collaboration between the Ministry of Sports and the Grenada Olympic Committee and the Grenada Athletics Association. Mr. President, I am happy to announce that we have taken a decision and started to work on building a 4 x 4 National Men's Relay Team. We are working towards qualifying for the PANAM Games and also to represent Grenada at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. Mr. President, it is something that we believe we do have the athletes to develop a Relay Team. There have been a lot of discussions about it, but, we have finally made a decision and we have asked our Grenadian Coach, Alleyne Francique, to lead the charge, to work with this team, **(applause)** to put this team together, so that we can represent Grenada at the upcoming Olympics in 2020. Mr. President, I think this is a very important initiative and we are very happy that we are moving forward with this initiative, and we look forward to success for Grenada, at the Olympics, with our 4 x 4 Relay Team.

Mr. President, the last thing, the Ministry of Sports, in our workings, we recognise that we have a challenge, not only just for us, but also, mainly, for our athletes, overseas, Mr. President, and sometimes they have difficulties. And we recognise that there is a challenge in the communication, and so ourselves, together with the Grenada Olympic Committee, we are working on getting, what we might call a Liaison Officer for all our athletes, who are overseas, so that we can be able to connect with them, or work with them, closely, and assist them with whatever challenges they are having, and also to get a clear understanding what is going on with them, and also for the Nation to know what is taking place with them out there, in terms of what activities they are participating in and even some of the successes, and for the Nation to cheer them along, as well.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

So, Mr. President, this is something that we have started, with discussions, and so soon we will make a decision on appointing somebody to be that that Athlete Liaison. We have not decided how it is going to be done, if the person is going to be here, or if the person will be stationed overseas, moving backward and forward. So, these are some things that we are discussing with the Grenada Olympic Committee, to ensure that we have this person or persons in place, so that we have a Desk to deal with all our International Athletes matters. Mr. President, this is the report on the Ministry, at this time. Thank you.

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Senator Cox. Just let me indicate to the new Senators. This is also an opportunity in which you can ask questions, you know, in respect of Ministerial Statements. If the question becomes too complicated, then I will give directions on this. So, it's essentially questions on expansion or clarity on the report given, by the particular Senator, in respect of his Ministerial duties. Senator the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, I listened to the report, but I am not certain, if I heard any mention made of the ongoing Secondary Schools Games, that's the National Secondary Schools Games, from the Minister.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information , Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** I'll speak to that, Mr. President.

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, as you may appreciate, it is just three (3) of us here, who are allowed to give Ministerial Statements, and there are a number of Ministries, so if I do not mention, other colleagues will take up wherever, the slack, and we only have a tight time, ten (10) minutes, per person, so I just wanted just to reiterate that.

**Mr. President:** Yes. Senator De Allie.

**Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a question for Senator Cox, regarding the recently held Cricket between West Indies and England and the fact that I know our Stadium still has issues with lighting, if he could give us an update on that situation.

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.

**Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts, Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. To my colleague, yes, the Government of Grenada, right now, through the Ministry of Sports, we are working very steadfastly to bring lighting, not to the Stadium alone, but also to the La Sagesse Playing Field. It's a sizable project for Grenada. What we are currently doing is that there is a preferred Bidder, who has submitted a proposal. What the Government has done, currently, is to engage another Company, who is assessing that proposal to ensure that the proposal that is being put forward is sound, that it is accurate to the best, and to ensure that we get value for money. So, that is what is taking place currently. So, it's an assessment of what is proposed for the implementation of that project; that is, we have a private Company, now looking at that proposal to advise Government and to make recommendations on a final product.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

Mr. President, the reason for that is that this is a very costly project and Government is very cautious, and I believe something of this nature we can only do this once, and so we want to ensure that we do it properly and hence we are trying to move, as meticulous, as possible, and to get the best advice, as possible, on where we are. So, work is ongoing and more information will come to the Nation, through this Honourable House, as we proceed. But, what is taking place, right now, is an assessment of that proposal, and soon as we have that report back, then we might have to tweak and look at everything else.

Also, in terms of all the technical stuff, all those will come to light when the report comes back. But, we are working, and it is a top priority for us, I can tell you, right now. Thank you.

**Mr. President:** Senator De Allie, with respect to the statement about the Stadium, I mean, I am not applying the Rules strictly, but, from my recollection, he made no statement on the Stadium.

***(Inaudible comments by Senator De Allie).***

***(Laughter).***

**Mr. President:** Okay. Alright. Well, you have found a technical opening. Yes. Okay. Fine. But, I just thought, as a general Rule. But, you know, I am not very strict with the Rules unless the conduct is disruptive, but I just thought I would... so that people don't get a sense that they are being ambushed, and to point out to Senators that they are appropriately well-armed with the information, so either of the three batsmen, so to speak, could handle the matter. I think I saw Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway. Senator Garraway, you have the floor.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you, very much, Mr. President, and good morning to everybody.

Mr. President, I rise to give a report on the Portfolio and the other Ministries I have the responsibility for to report in this Honourable Senate. And, I want to start off with NaDMA, and to say to us, Mr. President, that the Agency continues with its Education and Awareness Drive to help build a culture of disaster risk reduction in our country.

As you are aware that, because of our geographical location, we are very prone to, not only hurricanes and the likes, but tsunami and others. And, only last Thursday, we participated in what was a Regional exercise called CARIBE WAVE, and for the first time, we were able to, from a Regional context, simulate a local hazard and that being 'Kick Em Jenny'. As we know 'Kick Em Jenny' is some eight kilometers away from St. Patrick, and the scenario was that 'Kick Em Jenny' would have erupted and produced large waves that created a tsunami, and we were there to test our various protocols to ensure that persons know exactly what to do, get to the highest point, people obeyed the instructions, and I want to say that for that exercise, we had over one hundred (100) persons participating, or registering to participate in the exercise, that is online. We had over eight hundred (800) persons evacuated on that day. We had the Communication Companies participating by sending out the various texts.

Though we were in St. Patrick, but we were happy and gratified to have Companies, as far away, as St. George taking part in the simulation, and they would have tested the communications apparatus. So, we had the SGU; we had the GTA; we had the SOL Grenada Limited; we had Huggins, all testing some components of the simulation, the Call Centres, Clear Harbour and the likes. And they all tested some parts of their response mechanism, and I must say we were gratified, from a disaster standpoint, that the message is out there and persons are being cognisant of the fact that preparation will help save lives and save property.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

As it relates to our Institutional, or Capacity Building Exercise, come next week, we will have a very important training, a DANA Training (Damaged And Needs Assessment) Training. And, you know, this is very critical, because it helps to compile data, and in order to access Grant funding these days, Mr. President, data is pivotal, and we will be having this training with support from USAID/OFDA. We are looking at the first day, and that is the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. The first day, we will look at the General Stakeholder Body, to orient them and to bring them up to speed with what is expected or required of them, as it relates to data. And, on the second day, the first half of the day, we will, for the first time, assemble the SMB and bring the SMB together, the Senior Management Board, and to bring them to the place where they will become more familiar and to be more appreciative of the requirements of DANA, within the various Ministries. And, by so doing, we expect to have a renewed interest and participation in the whole aspect of DANA within our Country.

Just, for example, on August first, last year, when we had the rains, what was critical to getting us to be at a place to access support from the International Community is providing adequate data. So, this training is extremely important, and I want to say a special thank you to USAID/OFDA for their support.

Also, next week, we will have the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, our parent Body, CDEMA, visiting Grenada, and basically to do an assessment of the collaborative work that was done between NaDMA, NAWASA and CDEMA, being the Funding Agency for the NAWASA School Water Project Initiative, a Community Water Project Initiative.

As you know, what we have been able to do is work with the NAWASA, to find funding from CDEMA towards supporting this Project, and I should say some seventeen (17) schools, throughout the Island, were impacted, with some eighteen (18), one thousand (1000) gallons Water Storage Tanks. I said seventeen (17) schools, but we have eighteen (18) tanks. We have schools where they have some form of facilities for water and we were able to build more on what they had. So, 1000 gallons water tanks were donated to... we had the Grand Roy Government School; the Concord

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

Government School, the Happy Hill Secondary School, and they got two (2) tanks, and we could understand, because of the size of the facility; the Florida Government School; Bonaire Government School; Tivoli R.C. School; Grenada Christian Academy; Telescope Primary School; St. Dominic's RC School; Presentation Brothers' College; Green Street Pre-Primary School; St Andrew's Anglican Secondary School; St Andrew School for Special Education; St. John's Christian Secondary and the Vendome R.C. The cost of this project was two hundred and twenty thousand EC dollars (\$220,000.00).

Mr. President, what is critical here, for us, from a Disaster Management Agency, is that, we have a number of Emergency Shelters that, in the event of an emergency, as we say, a hazard relating to a disaster, those Shelters would become operational and persons will have to be housed there. And, what we have realized, some of those facilities do not have the Water Storage Facility to make them adequately prepared to receive such persons, hence the reason why we were able to do this. But, in addition to the water initiative with NAWASA, we were able to work with a number of other buildings, schools and, as well as Community Centres, in another project, by the Canada/Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund, and, specifically, the objective of that Project was to equip those bathroom facilities, within those Shelters, for persons with special needs. And, I want to single out here the St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School, because they got the largest chunk of this modern bathroom facility, to accommodate persons, as I said, special needs and to also outfit it with ramps and the likes, so persons can access those buildings. And, it's a number of facilities around the country, over eight (8) of them that we've been able to work with, and I want to say a special thank you to, not just the Project Team from NaDMA, but the Canada/Caribbean Disaster Risks/Management Fund for supporting us in this regard.

I move to the GIS, and I must say here, Mr. President, I want to take this time to commend this small team of dedicated men and women, who have committed themselves, night and day, to provide, not just to provide, to capture, edit and then

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

disseminate quality information to the residents of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and the wider Diaspora audience.

And, currently, we are capturing and covering the Zonal Meets for the Secondary School Games, which will lead to the National Secondary School Games, on April 5. And, Mr. President, in the last week, or so, I was given cover for the Minister for Sports, who was, unavoidably out of State. And, visiting the Western and, yesterday, the Eastern Games, I was tremendously pleased with what I've seen. **(Applause)**. I don't know, if you saw, Mr. President, the excitement and the camaraderie among the teams after they would have won. Some of them would have waited five (5) years for this big stage, to demonstrate their athletic prowess; some of them, one year. And, when I looked in the Stands and I saw how the students celebrated and shout, just name it, and then the teachers and the parents, who ran onto the Field in the Western Games and punched in the air, and there were so much in a jubilant mood; to see the children having that opportunity to demonstrate their athletic strength, to me, Mr. President, no money could have really paid for this. This, to me, is more valuable than two dollars (\$2.00) in my pocket, just to give the students that moment.

It would have been unconscionable, if the Government would have sit by and not allow our students, some of them, who came back to school for the last year, just to get an opportunity to showcase their talents, with the hope that somebody out there, some Scout would see them and give them that break as Kirani had and Alleyne Francique had and Rondelle Bartholomew, Josh Boateng and Lyndon Victor, just name them. It would have been unconscionable, if we did not take that opportunity and that decision to have the Games, so that the students, this year, can showcase their talents on the Tracks. **(Applause)**

Mr. President, I move over to the Ministry of Health, and I want to say that the Ministry of Health, Social Security and International Business is ramping up its interventions, aimed at ensuring the Mosquito Index remains at the acceptable or recommended WHO standards. And, this came to being against the backdrop of the report of a new strain of Dengue circulating in Region. The increased presence of

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

Vector Control Officers will be seen around. And, Mr. President, it is extremely important for us to say, at this point in time, that persons, who harbour, or breed mosquitoes on their premises will be dealt with. It's about time those illegal dumping spots and those places that create the environment for mosquitoes to breed, and this becomes an issue for the State, and we will enforce the Legislation. Operators of Tyre Shops and the likes are asked to ensure that, in their controlled environment, they protect the environment by securing their tyres, properly.

Mr. President, also I want to move quickly to the Ministry of Legal Affairs, and I know there is this urgent move, by the Ministry, to ensure that more Court spaces are made available, and to this end, we are working with the Operators of the CLICO building, on Young Street, to have this facility retrofitted and ready for the new Law Term; that is our commitment, and we are working towards this. I know the Snack Disc would have been completed, and that actually has to be done to bring the building up to that place. It is a short window, a close timeline, but we are committed towards making sure it happens, and I want to just say to all the Legal Fraternity, who has been working with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, to ensure that we get to that place. I want to say a special thank you to you.

To move quickly on to the... as you know NaDMA, as the Coordinating Agency, we have been working with a number of international partners towards bringing benefits to our country. And, one of the partners we have been working with is the Japan Grant Aid for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Grenada. And, through this programme some US eight hundred and twenty thousand dollars (US\$820,000.00) was secured to provide equipment that will aid in disaster risk reduction. And, to this end, a number of stakeholders, within the NaDMA chain, benefitted from this aid package, and as I said, NaDMA would have written up the project and put it together. And, today, happy am I to say that in August of this year we would be receiving a new motor vehicle, a motorized vehicle, a bus, to be exact, that will be retrofitted to transport people with special needs. We spoke of retrofitting buildings, now we are saying to get

**Comment [c1]:** Not clear. Clarify.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

the people to do buildings, we need to have the facility that will take them there, and we will be receiving that transport, or that vehicle in August of this year.

Received to date, we have a cargo truck for the Grenada Red Cross, as well as the Grenada Airports Authority. Also, we have the Grenada Ports Authority, they too, would have received a cargo truck... the Ports Authority and I am extremely excited about this. This has been a clarion call within our monthly MIAC meetings. It would have been one of those areas that the Port was constantly talking about, and that is how exposed we are to oil spills, because we have Trinidad just there, our passing lane just to the South, cargo ships and the likes, and so forth, and there was a concern. And, happy am I to present to the Senate today, Mr. President, that the Grenada Ports Authority was in receipt of (i) an Oil Fence, (ii) an Oil Skimmer, and (iii) a High Pressure Washer, and all are within the whole range of equipment we will need to clean the environment should there be an oil spill, and I think that was an extremely, extremely important piece of equipment we have received for the State of Grenada. **(Applause).**

Also, I am extremely happy to announce that the Ministry of Works or Infrastructure Development would have received a mini Asphalt Paver. And, we know the importance of quality infrastructure, and, as we say, first impressions are lasting, and we have visitors and investors and the likes coming into the country and you have poor infrastructure. It really sends a negative picture. But, we have been committed, from a Ministry of Works standpoint to ensure that our infrastructure is up to date and the receipt of a mini Asphalt Paver will help us in ensuring that our infrastructure is of quality standard.

And, just to run through, quickly, we have received, also, in the Ministry of Health, a Field Hospital. And, what this is? Primarily, it's saying that a mini Hospital, b-mobile, that can be taken anywhere in a place of emergency, disaster, whatever, and the first responders can treat the patients right there, stabilize them, almost in an environment close to a Theatre or the like, and this mini Hospital would be used for that purpose.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

And, it is very important to note, Mr. President, that we are very conscious, as we continue to develop this country, Health and Health Facilities are pivotal towards sustaining and building resilience within our Economy. So, this piece of equipment is extremely important, and it speaks to the direction where you want to go, as a Nation, in terms of protecting our people. And, I really want to take this time here to first, thank the Ministry of Health for identifying this, as the equipment they need and for Japan Aid for acceding to our request and providing the resources to ensure that we have this piece of equipment.

And, also, Mr. President, the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, they would have received an Incinerator; well, they have not yet received it, but it should be here not too long from now. And, again, that is extremely important; as it relates to the disposal of hazardous waste, or biological waste, just name it. Having an incinerator will now ensure that we build this sort of resilience in our Health Sector, and to protect our people. And, this, Mr. President, is a move that we all should applaud and commend the Government, because this is speaking to 21<sup>st</sup> Century development. Those things are extremely important. **(Applause)**

And, just to end to say that, in terms of our Disaster Management, we have continued with our drive towards building resilience within our various Districts. As you know, the country is divided into seventeen (17) Districts. And, currently, it started yesterday, in St. Andrew South-East, a First Aid Training Session is being held, some twenty-three (23) persons are being trained in First Aid, because as we have said, first responders are the ones that will help you to be able to deal with whatever emergencies that will arise, stabilizing persons before the Medical Practitioners show up, that is important. So, the training is extremely important, and we will continue as a Management Agency to ensure that our seventeen (17) Districts receive training, so that at least the country would continue to be aware, continue to be prepared, and we will be able to adequately respond to whatever hazard that may attack us.

And, finally, as you know, Mr. President, June 1, is usually...

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

***(Time Bell Rings)***

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** The commencement of the Hurricane Season. Currently...

**Mr. President:** This is just an indication that you have five (5) more minutes.

***(Discussion between the President and the Member).***

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** I will just close. Okay.

***(Inaudible comments by the President).***

**Mr. President:** ...somewhat your Ministerial length of time. So, there are three (3) Senators, that should give you, what would it be now? Twenty (20) minutes per Senator.

***(Break in Audio).***

***(Inaudible comments by the President).***

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Much obliged, Mr. President. I thank you for your graciousness. Well, just to continue...

**Mr. President:** I thought you were going to say just to conclude.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon.**

**Dr. Winston Garraway:** Yes. **(Laughter)** I was at the point speaking of the June 1 being Hurricane Season, and what is required, in terms of preparation. And, key in our preparation from a Disaster Management perspective, is to ensure that our Shelters are (i) inspected and approved to be able to accommodate persons should the need arise, and, currently, we are doing this. I know the team is currently in Carriacou, and the deadline that would have been given is May, to have the approved list of Shelters provided to the State, so persons can familiarize themselves. But, in the meantime, I want to advise residents, homeowners, business places, and so forth, don't wait till we get to the Hurricane Season to realize that there is an issue on your roof, flapping galvanize or the likes, and so forth, or a broken windowpane to get it repaired. Now is the time to start doing those things and to make sure that we are ready.

Just by means of advice, we are in the middle of, as I say, a prolonged drought. Thank God, the Cricket came, and we had rain with it. But, the cricket is gone, so the rain gone away. But, it's important to know that, when there is a prolonged drought, the oceans would be warm, or probably hotter than per usual. And, we do know that a warm ocean is fuel for cyclones, hurricanes, storms, as the case may be. It is believed we are going to have a robust Hurricane Season, so I just want to say to our people, we need to start making all the necessary preparations at this point in time.

I also want to go back to the CARIBE WAVE exercise which was held last Thursday in St. Patrick, and Carriacou, and I was reminded here that Carriacou had a number of persons actively engaged and participating in the exercise, and I really want to commend the people of the Sister Islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique for participating aggressively. **(Applause)**

Overall, I am seeing here that they took full control of their own space, the scenario and was able to move people, as was required. I spoke of SOL EC limited, Huggins, SGU, GTA, GRENLEC as well, participated in the, and Clear Harbour, participated in the whole exercise, though they were far removed from St. Patrick, but

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

they saw the need to communicate, and as I said, you can test various aspects of your disaster apparatus.

And, I will end by saying, Mr. President, that we do believe that, as a country, as a people who understand the dangers of storms, because we had our own experience with Ivan and Emily, and we know how destructive and dangerous this could be. I want to implore on our builders and homeowners, to ensure that we follow the Building Code at all time. So, the construction of the roofs of screws or whatever is required, let's follow it to the 't'. You might save a dollar now by doing it halfway, but it's going to cost you more, if we're to be impacted by a Hurricane. So, with these words, Mr. President, I want to thank you for the moment. **(Applause)**

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Senator Garraway. Senator Ron Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Redhead:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I have just three (3) questions on the issue... **(Break in audio)**... I will just seek some clarity on something that the Minister reported on. But, the first three (3) questions, Mr. President, is in relation to the equipment to clean oil spills. I will like to know from the Minister, I don't think mention was made, who donated such equipment, and what will be the cost of operating such an equipment, and do we have the labour here in the country to operate the equipment? And, Mr. President, in relation to Hurricane Season, I just want to say that the Minister is a bit, not factual. It's misleading to say that when we have droughts...

***(Inaudible Comments by the President)***

**Mr. President:** ...questions to be raised. It's not an opportunity for commentary; questions.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Alright. No, problem, Mr. President. So, those are the three (3) questions, in relation to the equipment.

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I only speak after the experts. So, the point here, and I did say, at the commencement of the statement, that the Japan Grant Aid for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Grenada, that's where the funding came from, eight hundred and twenty thousand US dollars (US\$820,000.00). And the equipment was donated, because it was a request from the Port Authority, because they needed that; they are responsible for the Maritime Space, in terms of Port issues and the likes. So, we received the equipment, and we had the technical people from Japan, who came and did the training of our technical people to operate those equipment. So, it will become a part of the Port Authority, or the job description of the employees, the technical people on the Port Authority. So, basically, you are not hiring new people to do it. They have the capacity and they have been trained to do that. Alright. Thanks.

*(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)*

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Those were the three (3). I gave all of them one time.

**Mr. President:** Yes, Senator De Allie.

**Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie:** Thank you, Mr. President. Through you to the Minister, on the issue on the legal and the issue of the Courts, I just want to ask if there is any consideration being given to the Registry, and the situation in that area and

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

the situation with the current Registrar and what is happening there. That is the first question.

The second one is on the oil spill and the training and whether or not NaDMA would be working in conjunction with Ports on this whole issue of oil spills, because, yes, Maritime Space falls under the Port, but does NaDMA now have a role to play in how we deal with oil spills, as well, because that could be a national emergency, as well.

And, the third thing is clarification. Did you say that the Ministry of Health was in receipt of a mini Hospital, and if so, what is the consideration for deployment of that? Is that through emergencies or what, and how is it going to be maintained?

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Okay. Yes, Mr. President, the first question, as it relates to the Court and the issue with the Registrar, I must say here that the CLICO facility is three (3) floors, and, initially, we were looking at two (2) floors, because they were available. We were told, lately, that it's the first floor, so that's the entire building; and we are looking to house, almost all the facilities for the auxiliaries that will support the Court within that facility.

As it relates to parking, and this didn't come up, but I know people have been concerned about parking and so forth, and you will be surprised and maybe amazed, as to the number of space you have at the back of the building for parking. So, there would be no need to have vehicles parked on the Young Street area, everyone can be housed at the back of the building. There is adequate space for the dock and so forth and the likes. I trust I got the full context of that question.

As it relates now to the oil spill, and you asked, as to NaDMA's role. NaDMA is the Coordinating Agency for Disaster, so all Sectors, we have some thirteen (13) Sectors that come together, oil spill and the likes are one of those Committees, within

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

the structure of the National Emergency Advisory Committee or Council. And, the Port sits there and Chairs that Committee. So, from a technical standpoint, NaDMA provides guidance there and assistance, and hence the reason why the request was made for that oil spill equipment. So, yes, we would continue to work with our stakeholder, the Port, to ensure that this happens.

And, I must also say that all the major Oil Companies within the country are part of this Committee. So, I am really excited about this Committee, how they function and to see, (I wouldn't say competitors), but they work as one team for the common good of this country.

The last question, was it the Registry, or the Registrar?

**Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie:** The mini Hospital.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Oh, the mini Hospital. The mini Hospital, or the Field Hospital, as I said was received by the Ministry of Health and, primarily, this is designed, as I said, as a small Theatre moving to a Disaster Zone. The first responders would be able to stabilize and do the work, as you will do in a Theatre, or so, right on the spot. The Ministry of Health, they have the capacity, they would have been trained to operate this machine, and I think we are well placed to utilize it adequately.

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway, of course, I don't ask questions, but just a suggestion based on your very comprehensive reporting. In the case of the oil spill, I want to suggest that, as soon as it's possible that you all actually have an oil spill drill, and to possibly make it an Annual or Biannual Event, because the likelihood of a spill is very real. Not only from Trinidad, but we are within the passageway of huge oil tankers, trafficking the Southern Caribbean. And, the dangers have been increased, in recent times, given the difficult situation faced in Venezuela and the international blockade against them. Many people have been reporting of military vessels, when, in fact, from

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

the information I have, they were just oil tankers sitting out there, because they couldn't make the deliveries to US Ports. So, I think there is an urgent need for an exercise to, first of all, assess the depth of skills acquired by the people at the Port and to test your own ability to coordinate. I think it is something that you should bear in mind; that's just my suggestion that I want to give.

The other question, which was made by Senator De Allie, which I think it slipped you, he wanted to find out how these things are going to be maintained, and I think his maintenance question was relevant, both, to the Field Hospital, as well as to the equipment. What provisions have been made for maintenance, and if I may just put in my two pence, because if you don't store the particular equipment, properly, you may discover when you go to it that it's not working. So, I just thought that I would put that in there, for your consideration.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, and just to say that this is one of the activities the Oil Spill Committee has been pushing. Just about two and a half years ago, when we had the Trade Winds Exercise here, one major component of the Exercise was an oil spill. So, those Companies would have tested their operations and so forth. But, thanks for this, again. This is something that we're going to push to be on the front burner so that, not probably every year, maybe every other year that could become an exercise that they should push.

As it relates to the maintenance, and I am happy you raised this, because it tells us where we're going at this point in time. There was an issue before of not having enough ambulances and the likes; then last year we got a whole load of them, up to ten (10) we have, and we are able to satisfy the complement that PAHO would have said is the required amount, in terms of ratio to the population of this country.

And, one of the suppliers of the two (2) ambulances, that's the CBN, they have committed to the maintenance, so it would not be Government coffers. They provide it and they would maintain it. And, what we're doing at this point in time, and it came with



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

the training exercise from the Japan technical people with those equipment, how to maintain. So, the information has been disseminated and we are committed to work with our stakeholders, to ensure that adequate use, but also the maintenance aspect of it is strictly adhered to, because it's not easy to come by. And, we want to make sure that it is going to serve us and serve us for a pretty long time. But thanks very much for the questions.

**Mr. President:** We keep having, and I don't understand it, because these are new equipment. But, we seem to be having technical difficulties with our amplification system. It seems to be tripping off, for no particular reason, and, as you know, the proceedings are recorded and when it trips off, then there would be blanks in the recording. Now, we have an activity here on Saturday and I am concerned, you know.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, can I suggest a five-minute adjournment, so that, maybe, a technician could look and resolve this, because this is going to hamper us throughout the course of today.

**Senate adjourned at 10:28 due to technical difficulties.**

**Senate resumed at 11:28 a.m.**

**Mr. President:** Honourable Members, pray be seated. This Honourable House now resumes.

**(Inaudible comments by the President).**

**Senate adjourn for lunch at 11:30 a.m.**

**Senate resumed at 1:30 p.m.**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Mr. President:** I think we were at the point where we had completed Ministerial Statements, no, except one. So, Senator Stiell, you have the floor.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Thank you, Mr. President, and we're all here after lunch. I hope you have our wits about us, as we proceed. So, Mr. President, I will present Ministerial Statements, first of all, focusing on the Ministry of Climate Resilience and the Environment and then some updates on the Ministry of Education.

So, starting with my substantive Ministry, the Ministry of Climate Resilience Environment, *et al*, one of its key mandates is resource mobilization, identifying international sources of grants and concessionary funding, to address our climate action needs. And, the Ministry has been working since its establishment on the development of a project pipeline, a pipeline of bankable projects and that pipeline has started to fill, and over the course of the last few weeks, there have been multiple missions by development partners, technical partners, who have been working with us on some of these projects, so I'll give the House an update on where we are with some of those.

So, starting with an approved project, the Green Climate Fund funded G-Cruise Water Project. This is bringing enhanced resilience to our Water Sector; it would certainly transform Grenada's Water Sector. It's a project that is valued at a hundred and twenty five million EC dollars (EC\$125 m), and GIZ, a Development Partner, who would be involved in the implementation of this project visited Grenada, working with the Ministry of Finance, with NAWASA at the Ministry of Implementation to finalize the Host Agreement, which will bring everything into force. So, this is an Agreement between GIZ and the Government of Grenada. Work is still ongoing in finalizing that host Agreement, and we are hoping to have boots on the ground in very, very short order.

Mr. President, another Green Climate Fund, funded project is for the pre-feasibility of the Climate Smart/Climate Resilient City Project, the objective of which is to make St. George's the first Climate Smart City in the Region, and New York University

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

will provide the technical assistance in the development of the concepts for this project. They were here on their third mission. They are actually back this week for their fourth mission, engaging with stakeholders, engaging with the various Ministries, in terms of developing the concepts that will establish St. George's, as that first Climate Smart City. And, these are interventions addressing vulnerabilities, such as sea level rise, flooding, etcetera; but interventions on the Carenage, the Southern Corridor, between the Town of St. George and the Airport, the Airport, itself, addressing vulnerabilities with the Runway there.

St. George's University, a private partnership with them, as an important economic pillar; protection of Grand Anse. Grand Anse is highly vulnerable, as is the Carenage to sea level rise, so interventions, looking forward there. Grenville, even though Grenville is not part of St. George's, it was viewed that there are some significant vulnerabilities there that needed to be incorporated within the project; so looking at Grenville Coastal Roads. Sewerage, a major environmental challenge for us, they'll be looking at finding solutions for addressing our sewerage challenges in the South. So, work is continuing there and at the end of this year, or the end of the summer, the schedule to have developed the nine (9) concepts, which will then be developed into four more funding proposals to the Green Climate Fund.

In terms of a project submission, it went out last Friday. This is a twenty-five million Euro project submitted to the Climate Investment Fund, and this is a project tagged, 'Energy for the Poor/Energy for the Vulnerable' which is looking at renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for vulnerable households. It's a very innovative project, it will look to tie into the low income Chinese Housing Project that we have and providing, as I said, energy efficiency solutions there to bring down the costs of energy for the most vulnerable.

And, then a second project, also, in the area of renewable energy, energy efficiency is working; again, it's a Green Climate Fund funded project, with UN Environment and the Caribbean Development Bank. The project's estimate here is in the region of twenty-five million US dollars (US\$25 m), and it will be focused on the

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

Public Sector, in terms of bringing down the costs of energy to us; looking at street lighting, looking at heating, cooling in our public buildings; how we can reduce our energy cost there. Those savings can then be ploughed into other more creative programmes, providing budgetary support. And, then for the Private Sector providing financing facilities in which the Private Sector can again implement solutions that would help reduce their cost of energy, and a submission to the Green Climate Fund is scheduled for next month.

Moving onto the Sargassum; an action plan has been developed and has been presented to Cabinet, Mr. President. The influx this year of the Sargassum has started much earlier than in previous years. This is becoming and has become a chronic issue, not just for us here in Grenada, but throughout the Caribbean and even as far north as Florida, the Florida Keys. Last year alone we spent somewhere in the Region of over a million dollars in clearing key areas where we had a buildup of Sargassum, which was causing health issues, issues for our fishermen, issues for our communities. So, an action plan has been put together and has been presented. It starts at the most basic level, utilizing our Environmental Wardens. Those teams, established in each Constituency, will be deployed to address those areas where there is environmental sensitivity on our shorelines and where manual interventions can be affective. And, we have already started this inundation, up in Bathway, and with the Environmental Wardens, with Community Groups, have successively cleared that. But, this is an ongoing challenge that we have.

In addition to the manual intervention, there will be the acquisition of some offshore marine equipment, through GIZ, which would help with the removal of the Sargassum at sea. That equipment is due to arrive later this month, the beginning of next month and working with NAWASA, in terms of how we operate, how we deploy this piece of equipment.

And, then we're working with and talking to the University of West Indies. They have done a number of studies in deploying booms and other offshore measures that

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

can help eliminate or reduce the amount of Sargassum that comes on the shores. So, we are working with them, in terms of identifying solutions that are appropriate.

We have submitted proposals to the Japanese Government for financial support, that's both at a national level, in addition to a regional project. What's important for us to understand here is that we can't solve this problem. We can't prevent the Sargassum from coming. It's becoming a new reality for us, as with our neighbours. The best that we can do is deploy techniques that would help us to manage it, prioritizing those areas that affect human health, communities, the economy and focusing on clearing those priority areas, and this work will be intensified, as the year progresses and the Sargassum season continues.

Moving on to the Ministry of Education; Mr. President, has announced that six (6) Island Scholarships have been awarded to the top performers at TAMCC. This is at the Associates Degree and CAPE levels, in the areas of Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Business Studies, Technical and Vocational Education and Training and IT. The value of these six (6) scholarships is a hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195,000.00) for each student for three (3) years of study.

And, in addition to that announcement, we've announced earlier on in the year the award of multiple scholarships to St. George's University. Twenty-five (25) Medical Scholarships, this is on top of... our allocation is sixteen (16) scholarships, but we were able to negotiate an additional scholarships with St. George's University for top performing Grenadian Students. A value of each of these scholarships is in the range of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00) each. So, these twenty-five (25) Medical scholarships are valued at \$17.5 m, Mr. President. **(Applause)**

And, in addition to that five (5) Pre-Med, two (2) Public Health, one (1) Veterinarian, thirty (30) Arts and Science scholarships, ten (10) of which were for the Nursing Programme. And, this, Mr. President, is another sign of Government's continued commitment to the development of our young men and women, providing them with world-class educational opportunities.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

Mr. President, an important point, all of these students are bonded, and we've said time and time, again, the importance for students to adhere to their bonding arrangements. It's tens of millions of dollars. We're spending somewhere in the region, investing somewhere in the region between forty and fifty million dollars, per year, in students' scholarships, and what we ask in return is on graduating, that they return to Grenada and provide, based on the duration of their scholarship, they provide between three (3) and five (5) years' service to Grenada – a very, very fair offer – students leaving without any debt and opportunities to get valuable work experience and to help repay.

But, we are looking at how we can strengthen this bond further, certainly, in the area of Medicine, where we are still finding students finding excuses and ways of walking out of these Agreements. So, we are working with St. George's University to tighten up and also to identify those graduated students, who have not fulfilled the terms of their bond, who are employed at St. George's University, to identify those individuals and come up with a fair mechanism. They can continue working at St. George's University, but they have to make time to work in the Hospital, in our Healthcare System, to start giving back some of that service.

We all know the challenges that we have in our Healthcare System, and if we have professionals, who are there earning privately, who have been the recipient of scholarships, it's only fair to ask them to contribute. And, then for those students, in full time employ at St. George's University, to put in a voluntary scheme to see how we can engage them too, so that they could assist, in terms of some of the manpower challenges that exist in our Healthcare System.

Mr. President, I know my colleague on the 'Other Side', Senator Redhead wanted an update on the National Secondary Schools' Games. My colleague Senator on 'This Side', Senator Garraway, gave an outline of the success of these Games and the reactions from students, from spectators and participating parents, teachers involved in the Games. We have seen successes already. The Programme is well underway, with Games already being held in the Southern Zone, Western Zone and

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

yesterday, very, very successful day in the St. Andrew area, with the Eastern Zone and today and tomorrow those Games continue in the Northern Zone, Carriacou and then the Finals for the Secondary Schools Games would be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. And, what we have found, throughout, is both student athletes and spectator participation has been excellent and then we have had the support of many Principals and many Teachers, in addition to Coaches, to parents. And I wish to congratulate all those who have been involved, thus far, in making these Games such a great success.

**(Applause)**

There is a 'however', though, Mr. President, and we need to speak about those few Principals, few Teachers, who continue to protest, the Working to Rule, with regards to the Games, withholding their services. And, this is in protest to the deductions that were made during the industrial action with teachers, the deductions made to those teachers who withdrew their service during those industrial times. And, all I want to say, Mr. President, is that we are interfering with the future of our children, in the supposedly 'Working to Rule, in terms of denying the support services that are required for these sporting activities, we are denying our children the opportunity to showcase their athletic ability. And, Senator Garraway expressed it, wonderfully, in terms of the level of excitement, the anticipation of many of these students, who look forward, so forward, to the sporting activities, and the importance of these Games, of these activities, not only as part of the educational curriculum, educational programme, but also for our children's personal development.

Mr. President, it is an employee's right to withdraw their service in protest. It is an employee's right, but it's also the right... once they follow the procedures within the Labour Code. But, it is also the right of an employer to deduct salaries, to deduct pay for days not worked. That is an employer's right, too. The Grenada Union of Teachers has a different view, has challenged this and has brought the matter before the Court; that is their right, too. We cannot argue with that. But, there is an issue, when you take a matter to Court, you are right, but you also decide you are going to continue to Work to Rule. Mr. President, this makes no sense. This is having your cake and eating it. It

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

makes no sense and the only losers in this, the only losers, Mr. President, are our children. **(Applause)**

So, Mr. President, what if the Courts rule in the Government's favour, we can't turn back the clock on this. The time lost, the time not invested in our children, their missed opportunities, we cannot turn back the clock on that. So, let the Court rule, Mr. President, and let us focus on investing the time, doing what we are supposed to do, in terms of providing our educational services for our children.

So, Mr. President, on a final note, the OECS Debating Competition was held here, hosted here in Grenada and Grenada was the winners. TAMCC came out on top. **(Applause)**. I had the benefit of listening to the debates and the quality of the debates, the intelligence, the maturity used throughout that competition was certainly admirable, and we, in this House, Mr. President, I think could learn a thing or two from some of those College children. So, on that note, Mr. President, I will end my Ministerial Statements. I thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Senator Stiell. Dr. Senator Winston Garraway, are you going to give way to the youth? Okay. Senator the Honourable Ron Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Redhead:** We appreciate. Thanks, Mr. President. Mr. President, I have four (4) brief questions for the Minister, through you. Firstly, we would like to know, Mr. President, what is the cost to host the Zonal Meets? And, secondly, we would like to know how would the Environmental Wardens be deployed and through whom? And, thirdly, we would like to know, in relation to Climate Resilience, we heard that the Project from the Green Climate Fund being announced, we would like to know if funding is also set aside for, maybe, the possible upgrading or refurbishment of the Vegetable Market in the Town of St George. In relation Mr. President, to Education, I would like to know if the Minister is aware of the January CXC pass rates for Math and English, 2019. Thank you.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Alright. Thank you. In terms of the cost of hosting the Games, I do not have those figures, so I am not in a position to answer that, right now. In terms of the Environmental Wardens, then, coordination is done at a number of levels. They currently reside within the Ministry of Infrastructural Development, but they will be transferred to the Ministry of the Environment, so the Environment Ministry will be managing them moving forward, once those arrangements have been put in place. And, in terms of addressing the action that needs to be taken regarding the Sargassum, then there will be local feedback. The Wardens are based in each of the Constituencies, so those Constituencies that are most affected by this Sargassum inundation will get local feedback on where those problem areas are, and then working in the community together with the Ministry, action will be coordinated, so that, as I said those priority areas are the areas that will receive attention.

Regarding the Green Climate Fund and the Vegetable Market, products are very specific. You write a project, the specific project has been approved; the G-Cruise Project is for the Water Sector. The specifications and scope of that Project are very, very well-defined and the execution of the project will be based on that. So, it's not possible to add... it's not a pot of money that just sits there and we can assign other activities to it. It is specific. What could be done is developing a project; Green Climate Fund is specific to Climate Change and Climate Action. The refurbishment of a market unless you can identify the climate rationale for that, it would not be possible, but there are other Funding Agencies out there. We have received support, traditionally, I believe the Market in Town, there was some support from the Venezuelans. Whether it's through bilateral, whether it's through Funding Agencies, there are other pockets of money that and can be identified.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Mr. President:** Senator Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Redhead:** Mr. President, also, there was a fourth question on the CXC pass rates for Math and English for January, 2019.

*(Inaudible comments by the President)*

**Mr. President:** So, could we take that kind of order?

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Yes. So, in terms of Math and English, I do not have the results at hand.

**Mr. President:** Dr. Senator the Honourable Dunstan Campbell.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Dunstan Campbell:** Mr. President, just briefly, you spoke of the Sargassum Seaweed and you outlined what is taking place, or will take place. I didn't see the connection with Agriculture. I would like to know, specifically, the plans for its collection and distribution to the Farming Community. And, I would like to congratulate you for the decision to go out there and collect the Seaweed instead of allowing it to beach, because that's the Seaweed that is most favourable and nutritious for the Farming Community, the salt connection. Thank you.

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** So, we will be applying the same methods that we did last year, where the Sargassum was collected. There were a number of deposits in areas. I know, Pearls, for example, was identified

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

as one location where farmers were, so it was stockpiled and farmers were allowed to collect. In Bathway, right now, they just did a major clear, and, again, moved the Sargassum that was collected in an area that's accessible to Farmers and it is being collected, right now. So, what my friend on the 'Other Side' is identifying is that the Sargassum, as well as being an environmental hazard, it also has commercial potential, it's highly nutritious.

There is a project that is just being piloted, right now, actually I think they have gone into commercial production in St Lucia where they are converting the Sargassum. They are extracting the nutrients and creating a liquid fertilizer with it, high value, highly productive, and there is a discussion that is taking place within the Region, as how to scale up that operation and how that operation can be 'franchised' for a better word, on other Islands within the Region, so that we can all, as we collect, process, and if we can identify common markets, common distribution channels for this, not just for use, locally, within the Region, but there is also an international market for the liquid fertilizer. And, again, the project in St. Lucia, I believe they have already identified markets in the US market. The question is how do we commercialize it, how do you commercialize on scale and how do we commercialize it viably? And, those discussions are taking place. So, we are working with our neighbours. We are looking to see if we can come up with common solutions and then common applications, and if there are commercial opportunities for our farmers in other areas, we are looking at that also.

**Mr. President:** Senator Roberts.

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Thank you, Mr. President. Through you, in regards to the scholarships you mentioned at SGU, I wanted to find out if you have a system of tracking your recipients, meaning do you have a way of hearing from them every term, as to how they do, so that in the end you actually have contact with them, so that you do not have to find them, find them meaning searching for them; because, as you rightly said, quite a number of monies are spent every year on scholarships, and

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

then we do not see the returns, in terms of how our Hospital is administered; meaning that everybody still has to run when an ailment comes.

I would really love to see the day, when we can have a Hospital that can really serve all of our needs, because not all of us are privileged to be able to take the plane and move. But, how do we get our students to remain home and, again, it goes back to not just the conditions, but remuneration, remuneration, because that's always what's chasing people, the minimal money that they would receive once they would have completed their schooling. Nevertheless, that's one of the questions.

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** So, in terms of tracking and the Clerk has some firsthand experience working on the Scholarship Desk, I think more can be done, in terms of tracking students. But, there are systems in place, those systems need to tighten up. One of the proposals that we are discussing with St. George's University is having students re-sign their bonds on an annual basis. How it works right now, if they are on a three-year/four-year Study programme, they will sign at the beginning and that's it. And, the proposal is that they actually have to return every year to sign, and the most basic benefit is, it is a constant reminder of this obligation that they have.

In terms of finding opportunities after, certainly, in the Medical field, there is no shortage of demand for Doctors and Nurses and Health Care Professionals, no shortage. The challenge that we have had is graduating students, fulfilling their bond and filling those gaps, and the attrition rate is far higher than it ought to be. So, again, looking at how we can strengthen that and ensuring that those bonds are served and served efficiently is a top priority.

In other areas, the award of Scholarships are based on national priority, so whether it is Tourism, Agriculture, Business, IT, etcetera, etcetera. So, these are areas

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements***

where we know there is national need. There is, however, a lag between opportunities being created, whether it is in the Public Service, or in the Private Sector and those graduating students. It will be ideal, if you could map students graduating, as they are actually completing their studies and identifying positions for them before they even graduate. And, that is a discussion that has been taking place within the Scholarship Desk within the Ministry. But, again, more work needs to be done there. But, ensuring that those graduates, opportunities are found and time served, constructively, is critical, very, very important.

**Mr. President:** Senator Roberts.

**Sen. the Hon Glynis Roberts:** Thank you, Mr. President and thank you, Senator Stiell, for that reply. Additionally, not a question, but a suggestion for the Scholarship Desk. I know every year, lots of people apply for scholarships, more than you can offer. I think a simple thing that the Desk can adopt, is with your contact with emails, please tell people early, you are not successful, just as you say you are successful. So, you have a batch for success and a batch for non-success, so that you do not have that confusion among people for that.

Next question, as we talk about the Zonal Sports and the Principals and the Teachers, my question is, how long would we prolong this seeming confusion in the Nation, with money versus students and students who have students' interests at heart? That is my question, because I believe we should not be blaming. We should sit, as mature people, to sort it out. But, it appears that there is this fight, us versus them, and I really, in my wisdom, think it is time to soberly find a way to mitigate.

**Mr. President:** Senator, these are questions.

***(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)***

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Yes. Right. So, I ask a question, how long are we going to continue?

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, Government has stated, over and over, it wants to resolve this matter. We are all looking bad. The ones who are suffering in this are our children, and we need to find a resolution, and Government is at the Table. The invitation is there to dialogue, and it is only through dialoguing, taking reasonable positions, are we going to resolve this. And, the Prime Minister stated, time and time again, we are all looking bad in this. We need to bring this thing to an end, and we need to focus on the welfare and the education of our children.

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

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Paper be laid on the Table.

- Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Market Access and Rural Enterprise Development Programme (MAREP) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.

**(Audio Break / Inaudible Comments by Mr. President)**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Ministerial Statements**

**Mr. President:** ...is really part of your fundamental responsibility and duty. These documents are exceedingly important documents, on the performance of different Statutory Bodies, Divisions and Departments. Many of them, by Statute, are required to lay their fiscal accounts and other reports before Parliament. It is your duty to peruse these documents, to seek information, by way of expansion, on the documents on matters that you are not clear on. It gives you an opportunity to debate these reports and to make the Parliament a more lively and responsive institution.

So, rather than allowing them to bank up somewhere in a folder on a desk, at home, I would urge again... I remember, some time ago, Senator De Allie and myself, after we did this, Senator De Allie, I do not think any other Senator really followed up. But, we used to take these documents, study them and come with questions out of them and in some cases they debate the document that is presented, and that makes our Parliament more enlivened. So, you have a responsibility in that regard, so I am just reminding Senators. And, you will find this, more so, amongst the Senators, who are not on the Government Side, because you have a duty to be a 'watchdog' for want of a better term, or to hold these institutions accountable, in respect of how they perform, how they provide services to the State, and how they meet the objectives, for which they have been set, a very, very important aspect of our Parliamentary oversight. I just thought I would reinforce that. I made that point earlier, but I would make it again. Senator Campbell.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Dunstan Campbell:** Mr. President, I understand that statement that you've just made. But, when you receive a document like this on the day of Parliament, you're not able to peruse it, and this we said already before that is the problem. I only saw this today.

**Mr. President:** Well, there is no requirement that we do it today. Certainly, by next Parliament, you can file a Motion, you can put questions derived from the Report; I have received this report, I've studied it and these are my questions to the Minister

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Ministerial Statements  
Questions***

under whose responsibility the document falls. So, it doesn't necessarily mean that you deal with it today, and I know that we have always had a problem with the brief period of time between which we are served documents and the time for which we convene. But, I just thought I would make that point, because two (2) Sittings from now, you can come with a volume of questions, or a Motion. Depending on what you read in the document, you may wish to make some suggestions on how things can be improved, as the case might be, or you may wish to critique the document and you can do that through a Motion.

**Sen. Hon. Dunstan Campbell:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 9 - Petitions.  
Item 10 - Government Notices.  
Item 11 - Unofficial Notices.  
Item 12 - Questions.

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, in relation to your earlier guidance, so I would ask one question, allow the response to be given and...

**Mr. President:** That's okay.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Redhead:** Alright. Thank You. Mr. President, I have the following questions, through you, to the Leader of Government's Business, Senator Simon Stiell. And the first question, Mr. President, reads:



***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

**Questions**

- a) Will the Leader of Government's Business inform the Senate of the present status of the inquiry into the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB)?
- b) In doing so, would the Leader of Government's Business provide the House with the names of the members of the Body currently conducting the investigation;
- c) Was a Financial Audit completed in accordance with Section (82) of the Public Finance Management Act on MNIB for the periods 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018;
- d) Did the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) investigate MNIB, at any time, during the period 2013 – 2018
- e) Would the findings of the investigation be made available to the Senate?

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Thank you, Mr. President. So, in response to Part (a):

- a) Will the Leader of Government's Business inform the Senate of the present status of the inquiry into Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB)?

The answer is: the Integrity Commission is an independent one in accordance with Sections 12 (ii) (a) and Section 13 of the Integrity in Public Life Act. Therefore, I will respond to these questions as follows: an inquiry is to be carried out by the Integrity Commission. In the meantime, its internal Investigations Team is gathering information to facilitate the inquiry process.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Questions***

- b) The question was, in doing so, would the Leader of Government's Business provide the Senate with the names of the Members of the Body currently conducting the investigation?

Information gathering is being carried out by the said Investigations Team, in order to facilitate the impending Commission of Inquiry. However, it is determined that the inquiry is to be carried out by the Commissioners, who are Lady Anande Trotman-Joseph, Chairman; Mr. Robert Robertson, Deputy Chairman; Miss Jasmine Redhead Commissioner; Mr. Bertie Hill, Commissioner; Mr. Winston James, Commissioner; Mr. Philbert Charles, Commissioner, Mrs. Oforiwa Augustine, Commissioner.

- c) Was a Financial Audit completed in accordance with Section 82 of the Public Finance Management, Act on MNIB for the periods '13, '14,'15 to '18?

The Answer: The Inquiry, itself, is now the subject of Court proceedings, and, therefore, the Commission, at this time, does not wish to preempt the Inquiry or prejudice the Court Proceedings by commenting on issues, which are sub judice.

- d) Did the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) investigate MNIB at any time during the period 2013- 2018?

The answer: an ongoing investigation by National Law Enforcement Agencies may be referable to the impending Commission of Inquiry. However, the Inquiry itself is now the subject of Court proceedings and, therefore, at this time, the Commission does not wish to preempt matters touching and concerning National Law Enforcements Investigations, Inquiry or prejudice the Court proceedings by commenting on issue, which is sub judice.

- e) Would the findings of the Investigation be made available to the Senate?

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Questions**

The response: the findings of the impending Commission of Inquiry may be shared upon completion of the Commission's work, once officially requested by the Senate. End of responses, Mr. President.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Mr. President, with your guidance, I will like to find out, are there chances and opportunities to ask follow up questions on any question?

**Mr. President:** Yes.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Well, Mr. President, in relation to part (c), and part (d), a simple yes and no, in my view, would have sufficed. But, I would just like to know whether or not the FIU or a Financial Audit was conducted for these periods; that's part (c), and in relation to part (d), a simple yes or no again. We would just like to know, Mr. President, whether or not the FIU investigated the Marketing Board during these periods.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I answered. I responded to both of those questions and I stand by the answers that were provided.

**Sen. the Hon. Redhead:** Yes, well, Mr. President, **(chuckles)**... I am reminded that I... Mr. President, question (2), part a: would the Leader of Government's Business inform the Senate on the terms of the current Oil and Gas Exploration Arrangement, or contract with Global Petroleum Group (GPG), and are any other partner involved with oil and gas exploration in Grenada's waters.

Part (b) to the same question; question 2: what economic benefits does Grenada stand to gain from the current Oil and Gas Exploration Arrangement or Contract with Global Petroleum Group (GPG) and or any other entity?

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Questions**

Part (c), would Grenada be compensated for loss and/or damage to the environment and marine life arising from any event connected with the ongoing exploration?

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, in response to part (a), the Global Petroleum Group (GPG) has a twenty (20) year development licence to develop four (4) blocks in Grenadian waters. GPG has partnered with the Chinese company Guangzhou to make the two billion US dollar (US\$2 b) investment required to extract the Petroleum in the subsea areas and sell to the National Gas Company (NGC) of Trinidad and Tobago, which necessitates the construction of a pipeline between the point of extraction, (if not, maybe two), in the Grenadian waters to an existing platform in Trinidadian waters.

Over the period of the licence, all viable wells in the four blocks already identified will be developed. Viability depends on, among other things, on the world price of Petroleum products at that point in time. Seismic surveys are also being undertaken in another four blocks. This will lead to exploration and possible development based on the results of the survey.

In response to (b), the economic benefits; Mr. President, at this early stage in the exploration process, with the need for significant production and development investment and subject to the price of oil and gas rising to acceptable levels on the World Market to assure commercial viability is not possible to quantify the specific benefits that will be derived. Caution must, therefore, be used at this time, in making forward predictions.

However, it is anticipated that with favourable geological seismic and commercial conditions, Grenada stands to gain, significantly, from the returns and re investment in the areas of Agriculture, especially Value Added, as Government would be able to invest in Plants and equipment, ICT technology, bringing jobs to our youthful population,

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Questions***

reductions in the price of electricity, energy, that will spur foreign direct investments and economic growth and more opportunities in the education for our people.

In response to (c): would Grenada be compensated for loss or damage to the environment, etcetera. The Petroleum and National Gas Deposit Act and Regulations under which exploration and development take place makes provision for the insurance against accidents and sets the standard for environmentally sensitive operations. The insurance must be to the satisfaction of the State and meet international standards. End of responses, Mr. President.

**Mr. President:** Just let me draw to the Senate's attention, Standing Order 18 (g), and maybe I should just read some excerpts of it, so that would help to elucidate some points. Under Standing Order 18, Contents of Questions, (g) says: "A question shall not be asked...", Roman Numeral (iv) of (g), "which deals with matters referred to a Commission of Enquiry or within the jurisdiction of the Chairman of a Select Committee," Roman Numeral (vi), or "about any matter then pending before the Court of Justice on which reflects on the decisions of the Court of Justice." So, a question may not be asked about "any matter then pending before any Court of Justice", or "which reflects on the decision of a Court of Justice." I just thought that I should bring this to your attention; so these are the rules, so Members can be advised accordingly. Yes Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Yes, Mr. President, thanks very much for the clarity, but I would like to say that the questions were, in fact, posed before any Court matter, in relation to the first question, Marketing Board was going through whatever Commission and so on. It was not set up at the time, and we asked the questions then. Mr. President, I have a follow-up question in question 2, part (a). Based on the response we got, so there was a previous contract with GPG. I would just like to know if it's the same Contract, or if it's a different Contract. And, Mr. President, in part (b) of question 2.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Questions**

**Mr. President:** Well let us just take part (a) first and give the Leader of Government's Business an opportunity to respond.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** All I am in a position to comment on, Mr. President, is the terms of the current Agreement, and, again, this Agreement is a Confidential Commercial Agreement. So, it's not an Agreement that's at this time is in the public domain, and it is not unusual that this is the case. These are commercial negotiations. Grenada is competing with other countries. Guyana has their Oil and Gas activities ongoing. The issue from both exploration, production and development is based on commercial sensitivities that either attract investment or do not. So, the precise terms of these Agreements, as I said, at this time where it is still very early in the exploration, production..., well the development phase is not subject to public perusal at this time.

**Mr. President:** Senator Ron Livingston Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Yes, Mr. President. So, alright, Mr. President, question 3, so I will cancel the follow-up question that I had in relation to question 2.

Mr. President, question (3), final question. Part (a): What was the cost to the Government of Grenada for the Referendum, of course, at the time just held?

Part (b), Mr. President, did the CCJ Advisory Committee have a budget? Part (c), if yes, what was the quantum of the budget and part (d), what was the source of funding for the Advisory Committee to carry out its functions?

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Questions**

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Thank you, Mr. President. With regards to the cost; the cost to Government, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2018 was one hundred and ninety-six thousand dollars (\$196,000.00).

Did the CCJ Advisory Committee have a budget? The answer to that is, yes. If yes, what was the quantum of that budget? The budget was two hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$210,000.00). And, what was the source of funding to the Advisory Committee; it was the Government of Grenada.

**Mr. President:** Senator Redhead.

**Sen. the Hon. Redhead:** Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, so the Committee was funded, in fact, by the Government of Grenada, in the sum of two hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$210,000.00), if I'm correct. And, it cost the Government...

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** That's not correct. The budget was two hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$210,000.00). What was provided was one hundred and ninety-six thousand dollars (\$196,000.00).

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Okay, Mr. President. Well, Mr. President, herein ends the series of questions. But, Mr. President, I just wanted some further clarity. I saw you quoted the Standing Orders. In relation to the questions, now in this regard, the first question, I would not have been able to know that it cannot be. I think we would have needed guidance from the House to ask us not to submit such a question. So, Mr. President, in relation to that, at least some explanation should have been given that it was in breach, in fact, of the Standing Orders and could not have been placed on the Order Paper.

***(Inaudible comments)***

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

*Questions  
Motions  
Bills*

**Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead:** Alright, Mr. President.

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 13 - Personal Explanations.

Item 14 - Motions.

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name.

**WHEREAS** the debate of the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the Second Session of the Tenth Parliament on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 was further deferred to a date to be fixed;

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

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Debate on Address deferred to a date to be fixed.**

**Motion approved.**

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

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to introduce for first reading a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Health Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

**Ag. Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Health Practitioners Act, Cap. 132A shortly entitled, Health Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 2019.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at this Sitting.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. President, the Health Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to amend the Health Practitioners' Act Cap. 132A to provide for the Grenada Medical and Dental Council, the (GMDC) to accredit programmes to prepare students to receive Medical Doctor Degrees.

Mr. President, there are currently two (2) levels of accreditation for Medical institutions in Grenada, and when we talk about Medical institutions, we know what we are talking about. We are talking about St. George's University. The first level is at the US level and the authority there that is responsible for granting and approving accreditation is the National Commission on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, the NCFMEA; and then the second level, which is at a regional level here

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

in the Caribbean is CAAEMHP, which is the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions.

The proposed amendment, Mr. President, is to affectively introduce a third level, a third layer, which is a National Accreditation Entity, which is the GMDC. This proposed amendment will provide us with the legal framework and support for Grenada to file a new application with the US Department of Education and the NCFMEA, to formally recognize the Grenada Medical and Dental Councils Accreditation standards and procedures, as comparable with those of the US Medical Facility. So, the services offered, the Educational standard and performance of a Medical Institution here in Grenada is equivalent to that of a Medical Teaching Institution in the U.S. And, it also enables Grenada to act at the appropriate time, to repeal the current Law that designates CAAEMHP, as Grenada's sole official accredited body for purposes of accrediting Medical School Programmes, while preserving the ability of Medical Schools to choose, to seek, or maintain accreditation by CAAEMHP.

So, the two are not in conflict. It provides, as I said, an additional route, in terms of accrediting institutions here in Grenada. So, why is this accreditation process important? There are two (2) elements to this; one, is the quality of that institution's educational Medical Programme. And, whether that is looking at the teaching facilities, the training facilities that are provided, the Campus sites, the physical structures, the facilities that are contained within, whether it is the Teaching Hospitals that are associated with the Medical Programme, where students serve their residencies to gain that practical, medical experience and skills, the quality of those, the syllabus, the programmes, themselves, the content, the teaching methods that are applied, faculty, the quality of the teaching services within that Institution, and then the management and administration of those institutions. Basically, all aspects of that medical educational institution, and to ensure that the students that are graduating coming out of those institutions are of a professional level, have the necessary skills, the necessary training for them to enter the Medical Profession. So, that is one area, one element of accreditation that is critically important.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

The other is a commercial consideration. US students, about 90% of them are dependent upon on federal loans to provide them with the financing, the funding to go to Medical School, and we know it is not cheap. It takes many, many hundreds of thousands of US dollars to become a Doctor. Those federal loans will only be granted to students attending institutions that are accredited, that have met a pre-required standard. So, as well as assuring the quality of the teaching and the output of the graduating students, it is also a sign of a specific standard that the loan providers look for. So, there is that commercial element.

So, Mr. President, in addition to having a Regional Body, in addition to having that international body, or the US Body, this third layer enables that accreditation process for institutions based here in Grenada to be as strong as possible, to be as robust as possible, so not only are we assuring the quality of teaching and learning, but in terms of their qualification for federal loans.

And, when we bring this back to what we are really talking about, St. George's University, an important Educational Institution, an important component for our own national development. And, when we look at the history of St. George's University, it first got its charter in 1976, forty-three (43) years ago, and from those very, very early building blocks, we now have a Medical Institution that is one of the World's finest. It was referred, recently, in terms of its Medical School and its Medical Programme, as being the Harvard of the Caribbean. It is the largest Medical School in this Hemisphere. Today, they graduate, they turn out two thousand, five hundred (2,500) Medical Graduates every single year; that is more than all of the Ivy League Universities in the United States put together. **(Applause)** They say one in every hundred doctors that are practicing, currently, in the United States is an SGU graduate. That's a wonderful, wonderful statistic. And, based on the current trend, by 2023, SGU will have the largest Alumni of Medical students in the United States.

And, then when we look at the... in terms of its contribution to Grenada's Economy, it is estimated that St. George's University contributes somewhere in the region of 20% of our GDP. And, in addition to training international students, it also

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

trains many of our own young men and women. I announced, earlier, the award of the Medical Scholarships, the hundreds, the thousands of Grenadian students, who have passed through St. George's University, whether that is in the area of Medicine and other medical services through the School of Arts and Science, a very, very important component, in terms of building our human capacity and supporting our national development.

So, therefore, with its critical role it plays in our society, it plays in our Economy, it plays in our national development, this additional layer, this third layer of national accreditation is of such vital importance to us, and this is not something that we are forcing on to St. George's University. St. George's University also welcomes this. They see the benefits in strengthening their credentials and their accreditation standing.

So, Mr. President, this has benefit for the University, it has benefit for the students, it has benefit for us, here, in Grenada. So, just running, quickly, through some of the substantive Clauses. Clause 4 provides for amendment to Section 7 of the principal Act, to insert a new paragraph, to expand the function of the Council to include evaluating, accrediting and monitoring Medical Doctor Degrees and Programmes.

Currently, the Council is responsible for the licensing of Doctors and Dental Practitioners. So, this Legislation expands their role, expands their function, so that they are able to perform all of the elements that are required in that accreditation process.

Clause 5 provides for amendments of Section 8 of the principal Act, to insert new paragraphs to expand the powers of the Council to include the following. So, Clause 4 spoke to the functions; Clause 5 speaks to the powers and it speaks to developing Policies, Standards, Procedures, to evaluate, to accredit, to monitor qualified Medical Doctor Degree Programmes. And, it also establishes their ability to charge fees for the services they are offering.

So, Mr. President, the Council will be charging Medical institutions that it provides accreditation services to. So, this is a Unit that would be a financially, self-sufficient, being able to run its operations, cover its costs through the fees that it charges for its

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

services. Clause 6, Section 10 provides for the Council to delegate its functions under Section 7 to be delegated to an Agency other than members of the Committee, of the Council and empowering the Council to delegate its function to another Agency, or Entity. So, Mr. President, what this speaks to is that the Council itself, the Council members may not have all of the skills, all of the tools, the capacity it needs to carry out its function and to exercise the powers that are vested in it. But, it is able to reach out to other Agencies, other Entities outside of the Council, to draw on those resources, so it can fulfill those functions and exercise its powers. And, this will ensure that it is able to fulfill its requirements and be as responsive, as possible; and as and when specific tasks are required, it can bring in the resources to do that.

However, Clause 6 also speaks to what the Council cannot do and it cannot delegate its power to make accreditation decisions. So, the Council remains the sole responsibility of being able to authorize, or not to authorize and to accredit or not to accredit an Entity. That is a function it cannot hand out to a third party, and this ensures integrity of the Unit.

Clause 8 provides for the insertion of a new Part 2(a) to the principal Act, which sets out the requirement for accreditation of Medical Doctor Degree Programmes, designating the Council as the sole accreditation authority. So, Mr. President, Part 2(a) basically prohibits any person, any individual, or any other institution, any institution from operating in that Medical Education Sphere without the Council's Authority. So, its powers are very, very clear.

So, in conclusion, Mr. President, what is before us is the establishment of the Grenada Medical and Dental Council, the (GMDC), as that third layer of national accreditation that would work hand-in-hand with CAAEMHP, in order to ensure that Medical Educational Institutions, here in Grenada, are comparable with those in the United States, receive their necessary accreditation that is required for them to operate, to ensure the quality of graduating students in the Educational Services that are provided, and ensure that those Institutions continue to qualify for the federal loans for the students that are necessary to make them commercially viable. It is for those

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

reasons, Mr. President, that I commend this bill for its second reading. I thank you.  
**(Applause)**

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie.

**Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I'm seeking some clarity from the mover of the Bill, in trying to understand the rationale for the third layout. My understanding is that, in Grenada, we have a National Accreditation Body that accredits all schools, programmes and subject areas that are being offered, even from International Online Institutions that would offer courses to Grenadians, to ensure that whenever they spend their money, they are spending their money to get certification that is worth the paper it is on. So, that National Accreditation Body, I know, is also responsible and also looks at SGU and its programmes and has to accredit the St. George's University. These things and the Accreditation process doesn't come cheap for the Institution, and my question to the mover of the Bill is, I am not understanding the rationale for giving the Medical Council, the GMDC, now, a further right to accredit the Medical Programme of that particular school, or for that case, I don't know, I didn't see this in the Act to say so, if it is expanded to include any other Medical Programme that may come Online, or subset of some Medical Programme that may be offered by an Online Programme, if they are also required to accredit them, or accredit what programme is being offered into our own geosphere.

The other question I have is the issue of delegation, where it says in Clause (6) that the GMDC can delegate. So, my question is, does the GMDC delegate this to the National Accreditation Body, because they are the ones, so far, with the expertise and the necessary staffing to carry out accreditation, which is a highly specific and highly technical area of investigation, Mr. President. And, then when we talk about GMDC doing this, my understanding of the GMDC Act was that they are primarily set up to

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

ensure Doctors are licensed, Doctors have the requisite qualifications. In order to get this licence, they do their refresher courses and all of that, to ensure that when patients go to them, we are ensured that we are getting a certain level of service and a certain quality of service, as well.

We had an instance in Grenada, recently, that was brought to my attention, Mr. President, where there is a Dentist operating in Grenada without a licence. The Medical Association brought this to the attention of the Police and the gentleman still continues to operate, because the Medical Council (GMDC) is not sure of their powers, under the Act. The Police are aware of that. The Police are not sure if they can close him down and under what authority. So, we have issues with the Act, itself, to me, that are more critical to be dealt with, because this is patients' lives we are dealing with. And, if we have a gentleman operating as a Dentist, in Grenada, without a licence, how could his doors still be opened? I am baffled. So, I say that to my colleagues on the 'Other side', that I hear about the adding of this other layer, but we have problems with the current Act that doesn't seem... no party understand where their powers is, under the Act to actually shut down somebody, who is in contravention to the Act. So, probably the mover of the Act...

And, the last query I want to mention is the timeline. We are adding this third layer. We have an existing school that is being looked at for accreditation now. When we give GMDC this power to further add another layer of accreditation, what kind of timeline are we looking at to get this done, because, as I said, accreditation is not something that could be done tomorrow. You have to develop special expertise, and it requires quite a lot of effort. So, Mr. President, that is my only concern with this, that we are creating another layer of something that I am not clearly understanding the need for it, at this point in time, when we already have a National Accreditation Body that is...

If the National Accreditation Body doesn't have the requisite skills, probably, we need to get some Doctors inside there to help them to ask the right questions on the particular programmes. But, I just cannot understand why we are adding another layer.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

And, the other layer may come at costs to the school, or whoever that has to do the accreditation, probably two (2) sets of costs, and I am not clear, in my mind, as to why we are adding this other layer to deal with this issue of accreditation.

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to give my full support to the second reading of this Bill before us today. And, I want to say that it is my view that there is a new chapter in the evolution of SGU. And, when we look at the impact SGU, St. George's University has had on and continues to have on our economy from inception, in 1976 to the present time, we, as a Nation ought to be proud of the institution and the accomplishments and how it has served this country. We ought to be proud. Yes, we have seen that, in terms of the actual economic spinoff, where 25% of our annual GDP is being produced by SGU; that is significant. When we look at the number of scholarships over the years, that they have provided for our ordinary Grenadians, who, obviously would have qualified and being trained to become Medical Doctors and are now serving the country, we ought to be proud, too.

But, not only that, having to welcome students from around the Globe, coming to Grenada to train here, and after gaining their education and going back out into their part of the world, but not forgetting the country that is responsible for making them who they are today. And we are seeing the contribution they are making as the Alumni Association through either CHORES and other Organizations that came through SGU, contributing back to this country, we ought to be proud and really happy as a people that the vision, some forty-three (43) years ago to have the Medical School, coming into Grenada, is now paying off. So with a student population probably of over six thousand (6,000) and now getting to the point where we have a facility to have this accreditation in place, it speaks to increasing the stocks, to me, I would put it this way; increasing the stock of SGU. And, in so doing, I do believe there would be more students wanting to



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

come to study on this Island, in this institution, so we are looking, going forward, to greater impact into the socio-economic development, the Medical development.

Let us look at it, Mr. President. The mere fact that a young person, coming from humble beginnings are given an opportunity, through this Institution, to study here and to change their whole economic landscape and becoming the success stories that we have seen from those Alumni's from SGU, is tremendous and I do believe, as a Senate, as a country, we are committed, or obliged to give full support to this, the second reading, but more so, to encourage SGU in whatever way we can, so that they will continue to be that powerhouse of higher learning in our country, so that our young people can be given this opportunity to develop. But, more so, the accreditation is going to help, as this sort of motivation or attraction, or incentive to have more students coming to our shores. And, for this, Mr. President, I want to give my full support to the second reading.

**Mr. President:** Senator Williams.

**Sen. the Hon. Cathisha Williams:** Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. If I may, I would just like to address a concern raised by Senator De Allie, with regard to the penalty for persons practicing under the pretense of being certified, when they are not.

Section 33 of the principal Act speaks to the requirement to be registered and have a practicing certificate, and subsection (3) says that; "A person, who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years."

So, if, in fact, the offending person is practicing without a certificate, there is redress under the Act. Well, I hope that answers in part, the Senator's concern. I can see him mouthing another concern there. But, perhaps, he can raise it, if he needs further clarity, Mr. President. That was just my intervention, but I also support the Bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Senator. Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** So, to wrap up the debate, we had some comments on Both Sides. Addressing the question of the rationale behind this; there are a couple of areas that this speaks to. One is the presence of St. George's University here in Grenada. And, we spoke of the significant impact they have on our Economy, in terms of the economic benefits, in terms of educating our children, the role it has in our national development, and the need, even after forty-three (43) years, to be able to have an Institution, a local Institution, to ensure that Grenada's national interests are being reflected in what is the output of St. George's University, and this is something the St. George's University themselves, are very comfortable and supportive of.

But, it also adds to their credentials, internationally. So, in terms of relationships with the authorities in the United States, the addition of this other layer adds to that robustness. I spoke of the robustness of that accreditation process; so at a regional level, at a national level. And, in terms of bringing in the necessary skill sets to enable us to do this, is why there is that Clause, in terms of the delegation. And, that accreditation process takes place in the coming weeks and months. I believe some of the technical work has already started with regard to that. So, there are additional costs associated with this, but those are costs that will be borne by the client and then if there are other institutions, the costs of funding the accreditation process to provide that stamp of approval will be borne by those third parties.

So, Mr. President, we see this as a positive. I think it helps to establish Grenada as being an educational hub within the Region, and it helps to establish and polish that gold seal that St. George's University has here in Grenada, in the Region and internationally.

So, Mr. President, the proposed amendments before us strengthen what exist. It does not compete with CAAEMHP. It works hand-in-glove with the regional accreditation bodies and provides the necessary recognition, in terms of interfacing with

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

the authorities in the U.S. And, again, it is a testament to where Grenada is after forty-three (43) years of this World-class educational institution here in Grenada; and it is for those reasons, Mr. President, that I commend this Bill for its second reading. Thank you.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a second time.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

**Senate resumes.**

**Mr. President:** Honourable Members, I have to report that the Bill was considered, Clause by Clause, by a Committee, of the Whole Senate, with several amendments, as per earlier indicated. We don't have to go through all of those amendments again and was moved by those amendments. Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Mr. President:** Senator Stiell.

**Leader of Government's Business, Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

**Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to introduce for first reading a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Grenada Citizenship by Investment (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

**Ag. Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Grenada Citizenship by Investment Act, No. 15 of 2013, shortly entitled the Grenada Citizenship by Investment (Amendment) Act, 2019.

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at this Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, this Bill seeks to amend the Grenada Citizenship by Investment Act No. 15 of 2015; and primarily I want to present to us in this Honourable House, this afternoon, that from the inception of the Bill, in 2013, we have seen an expansion around the world of countries adopting Citizenship by Investment. And, this is so because countries have been able to use the Bill to help in the transformation of their economies and, as well as, providing critical support for many initiatives within the country. Let us take, for example, and I am looking at in Grenada, the CBI and the funds through the Transformational Fund has been able to help in the transformation of the rural economies; has been able to contribute SEED capital for the Youth in Agricultural Initiative, and so much more activities to help in the transformation and the development of your country.

But, what is also noteworthy, from time-to-time, as we are doing here, and we have seen in other countries, there has been a constant move to refine the product, to ensure that it remains competitive, to remain on the cutting edge, so it is not strange to have amendments. And today the amendments, which we are proposing are in keeping with our main thrust of a product that, one, is designed to satisfy the desires of the country and to protect the integrity of our country. So, the amendments here are in keeping with these broad outlines, as it relates to protecting our country.

As it relates to the Bill, itself, and I want to propose the first amendment to Clause 2, and we are looking at dependents, looking at paragraph (c); and the new paragraph is to eliminate the requirement for financially dependent children, over the age of eighteen (18) to be enrolled in an Educational Institution.

It is important to note, Mr. President, and I want to read it, what is now obtained in the original Bill. It speaks to a child, or a dependent between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26) to be considered a dependent, must be enrolled in an Institution of higher learning, but we need to have information to verify that they are in there.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

What we are saying with this amendment, there would be no need to provide information to verify their attendance, as long as you are child within the age group, between eighteen (18) and under thirty (30), and you are dependent on your parents or the applicant, or his or her spouse, you will be qualified as a dependent and can be qualified for citizenship.

We look at the second term amendment. We are looking at paragraph (e), and the new paragraph seeks to expand the term, 'dependent' to include a **"parent or grandparent, aged fifty-five (55) or under, if the parent or grandmother is living with and fully supported by the main applicant"**, and I think this is quite simple, as it relates to a parent or grandparent, who is dependent on the main applicant.

I want to look at paragraph (f), and in this paragraph, the new paragraph, it says: **"eliminates the need for a parent or grandparent, over the age of fifty-five (55) to be financially dependent."** Before it was saying to be qualified as a parent or grandparent, you must be financially dependent on the applicant, and we are saying it doesn't have to be so. Right now, if you are the parent or grandparent of an applicant, or a citizen of the programme, the parent or grandparent can be qualified to be a citizen of the State. We will see lower down, as it relates to what will be required to get that person in as a citizen or to gain citizenship under the programme.

We will look at (g), paragraph (g) and the next amendment we want to make is in paragraph (g), and it seeks to expand the term, 'dependent' to include **"a sibling whether biological or adopted, who is unmarried, is a single person"**, that will be unmarried, **"is at least eighteen (18) years of age and has no children."** So, what we seek to do here, as I said, is to expand the term of 'sibling'.

The next amendment we are proposing, Mr. President, is an amendment to paragraph (h), and the new paragraph was inadvertently omitted from the Act, Act No. 18 of 2017. And, (h) says: **"A child born of the main applicant or his or her spouse within twelve (12) months of the grant of citizenship will qualify for citizenship."** So, yes, you apply and would have been qualified, and you now become a citizen

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

through the programme, and ten (10) months later you have a young child; that child will be so qualified to the grant of citizenship under the programme.

Additionally, Mr. President, it is important to note that when I spoke before of a grandparent or parent over the age of fifty-five (55) qualifying to becoming a citizen under the programme, the investment amount, or the contribution that will qualify them to getting the instrument, for a parent or grandparent, fifty-five (55) years or under, the contribution to the State is US fifty thousand dollars (US\$50,000.00), and a sibling will be US seventy-five thousand dollars (US\$75,000.00)

This, Mr. President, is an indication that you can expand your programme, you can create more opportunities through the programme to meet the needs that we spoke of earlier, in terms of transforming your economy. What is critical here, and we have been able to do this quite successfully, over the six (6) years of the programme, is our Due Diligence platform that has been working well, and to ensure that persons, who come... are qualified to enter into the programme, would have passed through that rigorous test and we are certain that those who are coming on are persons who will increase the value of the programme itself, and to protect the reputational value, or image of the country, and we are, indeed, happy with the work of our Due Diligence Agency headed by our FIU.

And, it is important to note, also, Mr. President, that the contributions of the fifty thousand for the parent or grandparent under age fifty-five (55), or the sibling of seventy-five thousand and these contributions would be applicable with respect to application under Section 10, which is the National Transformational Fund, or Section 11, which is approved projects and Section 11(a), significant investment.

Clause 3 also seeks to repeal Section 5(10) of the principal Act, Mr. President, to remove the requirement for the child, under paragraph (c) of the definition of 'dependent' to submit official transcript, which I spoke to earlier. Since this requirement would no longer exist, Section 5(10) of the principal Act provides, and here what it says: **"An applicant, who is at least eighteen (18) years and less than twenty-six (26),"** because that's what it was originally saying, **"who is applying as a dependent of a**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**main applicant, shall submit official transcripts or written confirmation from an accredited University or College, or further education of the applicant's enrollment at the University, or College at the time of application."**

But, as we have seen in Section 2, paragraph (c), that requirement is no more. So, the principal Act has been changed to remove this, as a requirement, you do not have to provide an official transcript.

Clause 4 also, Mr. President, seeks to amend Section 10 (i) and repeal Section 10 (ii) of the principal Act to remove 'permanent residency', as a prerequisite to the grant of citizenship.

It is important to note, Mr. President, that it is only one Due Diligence that is required to qualify a person to the grant of a citizenship. So, you do the due diligence and they have been qualified, and they have the right to permanent residency, or citizenship.

Historically, prior to today, it was the practice, you get the grant of permanent residency, and then you wait for a period to apply for citizenship. We are saying in light of the fact there is only one Due Diligence, a person, who is granted permanent residency can apply for citizenship almost immediately afterwards. There is no waiting period, because, additionally, Mr. President, there is no additional risk to the State, because the person would have qualified already. So, there is no additional risk to the State by granting them citizenship right away, because, as you do know, if a person may have contravened any Law out there, in the normal course of things and the Law has to take its course, there are areas of, at least, redress. So, there is no issue, at this point, and we are happy that we can move forward in this direction.

Clause 5, Mr. President, seeks to insert the following new subsections (3) and (4) of Section 11 of the principal Act. And, it says: **"A person to whom Citizenship by Investment is granted by virtue of an investment in an approved project under this Section shall not dispose of the investment for the purpose until the expiration of five (5) years from the grant of his or her citizenship."** And, what we are saying here, Mr. President, a person may invest into the Transformational Fund, or



***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Bills***

into an approved project, and for some reason you want to get out of it. There is a waiting period before you are legally free to dispose of the investment, and that is five (5) years. Again, also, if someone seeks to purchase that which the investor is disposing of, it cannot happen; he cannot purchase it, or get the right to citizenship, if it is not five (5) years. So, it is a protection for the State in this regard, and it is also protection for the integrity of the programme. With these words, Mr. President, I want to commend the Bill for its second reading.

**Question proposed.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Cadet.

**Sen. the Hon. Judd Cadet:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to give my contribution to this Bill. The Citizenship by Investment Programme is one that I think, in my opinion, that is not well understood by the public and I think it's a fault by ours; we should properly educate people on the importance of this programme.

The programme, as much as one may say is the selling of passports. This is not the nature of programme. It is an Economic Programme that aims at developing countries, with not much resources like ours, and generating revenues, non-tax revenues.

Mr. President, it is also important to understand that the first Citizenship by Investment Programme was St. Kitts and Nevis, which was in 1984. And, then there were several other Citizenship by Investment Programmes including North America, Canada and the US, 1986 and 1990, respectively. And, what we have seen within the last couple years, ten (10) years or so, there have been a number of Citizenship by Investment Programmes across the world, including Malta, Cyprus. There have been five (5) in the Caribbean including Grenada, Antigua, St. Lucia, Dominica and right now there is a discussion in Anguilla of a Residency Programme. So, there are more Islands and countries coming on board with the Citizenship By Investment Programme.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

In St. Vincent, for example, what we have seen is the Opposition is talking about that if they do, somehow, get in power, that they will institute a Citizenship by Investment Programme. So, a number of countries are realizing the importance of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, and it is fair and I think it is important that we educate the public on what this Programme is really doing for us here in Grenada.

Mr. President, additionally, I think it is important that this programme is protected, and that is why I welcome these amendments, because these amendments are making the Programme attractive and competitive without compromising costs and our due diligence. It is important to know that, Mr. President, because in Dominica, St. Lucia, Antigua, they are reducing their price. We are not doing that. We are ensuring that we remain competitive in the market, in the industry, without compromising on this. And, it is well stated, from international bodies, that we are the gold standard for due diligence and we must be commended for that, Mr. President. **(Applause)**

Mr. President, what we have also noticed, from reports from International Organizations like the OACD and Transparency International, as well as Global Watch List, we are seeing that this Industry is being criticized, especially in the Region and so many threats have been made, as it relates to this Industry. But, it is important to note that the same European Union that seems to have so much concerns about our Programme, over the last decade, according to Transparency International, one of the Agencies that is quite critical of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, stated that, twenty-five billion Euros was gained in the EU Member States... twenty-five billion Euros through the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Malta raised about two hundred and fifty million Euros from their Malta Individual Investment Programme, which is a Citizenship by Investment, which represents 2.1% of their GDP and one billion Euros, that was last year, that's the figure, two hundred and fifty million, from 2013 to now, they have raised one billion Euros through their Citizenship by Investment Programme. And, through that, Mr. President, Malta has one of the fastest growing GDP in the European Union, as well as one of the lowest unemployment rate, as well.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

Cyprus, again, another EU Member State, generates \$1.4 billion Euros, annually, which is 7.1% of their GDP, and 6.6 billion Euros since the inception of the Programme. Mr. President, it is important for us to note that, of how it is important for us, here in the Region, to have that sort of economic programme that is helping to stimulate our economic activity and also having money in our economy.

St. Kitts and Nevis, closer to home, generated one billion dollars (\$1 b) within a decade of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, which they are using to transform their economy.

So, Mr. President, this Programme, as we are seeing, is a serious Economic Programme that we must not take for granted. And, we have to do all in our power, to protect it and ensure that we maintain our stringent due diligence. In fact, it is believed that we have one of the most rigorous due diligence in the Industry. We don't have one Provider, or two (2) Providers, there are multiple Providers, and usually it is once the approval of all due diligence partners is giving their approval on the applicant, that is when it is approved. If there are sometimes concerns of one, sometimes the applicant is either denied, or further, our enhanced due diligence is usually done on that application.

In January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, a term was coined there by one of the leading Marketing Agents in the industry and their partners, where they stated that, and the discussion was on 'Sovereign Equity' versus 'Sovereign Debt.' And, it quoted 'Sovereign Equity,' Mr. President. **"Sovereign Equity, is a means for Government to achieve fiscal balance and economic growth without increasing their debt, meaningfully addressing the growing imbalances and inequalities inherent to traditional sovereign debt financing, by engaging with the Global Community of high net worth individuals."**

So, what this is telling me, Mr. President, is that Small Island States, like ours, that don't have as much resources, the Citizenship by Investment Programme gives that opportunity for Government to raise the much needed funds to drive their economy. What is unique about Grenada is that we are doing so well, economically, that we are

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

not solely reliant on the CBI funds, unlike, let us say, Dominica, which economy is 52% of it... is through the Citizenship by Investment Programme. In Grenada, that's not the case.

So, Dr. Christian Kaelin, the Group Chairman of Henley and Partners said from that Economic Forum that sovereign equity is both self-evident and revolutionary. The 2008 financial crisis, and its continuing aftermath, makes it evident that constantly increasing sovereign debt is not a sustainable solution, and that is right. Usually, for us to raise funds, we have to go and borrow more money and plunge ourselves further and further in debt.

No wonder why in St. Kitts, they have been able to reach the 60% mark of Debt to GDP ratio, in a very short space of time. And, in Grenada, we are not far from there. From my indication, we should reach there... We are 62 or 65%, and we'll reach there pretty soon.

So, Mr. President, looking at those amendments that are presented here, I say this would make our programme much more attractive in the market. And, we are not compromising on the price, we are not compromising on the due diligence, we are ensuring that, for example, in Clause 5 where we are talking about the opportunity for an investor, to resell within five (5) years. Mr. President, that would drive investors into our programme, because they have the understanding that they have also an exit strategy that they can resell their units to another qualified investor, which is a Citizenship by Investment Investor. And, it is sort of a sure market, because let us say an investor pays four hundred thousand US dollars (US\$400,000.00), it's quite difficult for them to sell that to the open market, because there are, most likely, better options elsewhere in the open market. But, selling it to the Citizenship by Investment market, with another Investor that is interested in the Citizenship by Investment can be able to buy that property from that investor. So, it's sort of that sure market, a sure one. So, an investor wanting to invest in the Real Estate component, it is quite an easy sell for them, and that, again, will also assist in generating much more revenues for Government at the end.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

Mr. President, Clause 4 or Clause 3, that is the amendment that we are making, as it relates to adding the sibling into the application. Again, Mr. President, as it says here: **“A sibling of the main applicant, or his or her spouse, whether biological or adopted, who is at least eighteen (18) years, and is single, with no children.”**

So, before that, a sibling, if interested in the Citizenship by Investment Programme, will, most likely, have to apply as a single applicant. But, what happens, if a family is applying, and that sibling just may not be so much interested in getting citizenship, because they would have to pay an additional one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00). With that, they're going to pay seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) dollars, and that would be attached to the application. It's a much easier way for them, and, as I said it's not compromising the due diligence. So, it's not a case that these individuals would not go through the normal due diligence standards. But, these individuals, Government can get more revenues, in a sense, through that mechanism, because you are making the programme attractive to families, and that's what is important here, as well.

So, Mr. President, I think these amendments here are timely, and it is important that, as we maintain our brand outside there, most investors see Grenada, as a premium brand, a premium programme and they are willing to invest. And, now that we are adding, or packaging the programme as one that is suitable for families, I think it is more welcoming news for Grenada.

Before I end, Mr. President, I want to also commend the Citizenship by Investment Unit, because it was stated by 'Best Citizenship,' which is an Online Platform that compares Citizenship and Residency Programmes, has ranked Grenada, as the No. 1 Citizenship by Investment Programme in the Caribbean. **(Applause)** Usually, what happens is that Citizenship by Investment Programme is ranked based on the power of the Passport. So, if you have access to one hundred and sixty (160) countries, for example, your Passport gets a higher ranking. I think we, in Grenada, have access to about one hundred and forty (140) countries, or one hundred and thirty-five countries, I cannot remember the exact figure.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

But, this new model that 'Best Citizenship' is using is a point-based system; so they access things like our Education, Visa-free travel to the big three (3) countries, safety, and when assessed, Grenada scored top marks for Safety, Education, Visa-free Travel to the big three (3) countries in the world, such as China, Russia, UK and also for our E2-Treaty with the US. So, we scored one hundred and two (102) points, a maximum of one hundred and fifty (150). We are right behind Belgium with one hundred and four (104) and Cyprus, one hundred and six (106), and Malta one hundred and seven (107) points. So, we are ranked No. 4 in the world, and No. 1 in the Caribbean. And, I think again, Mr. President, that is a commendable thing for us.

In the Caribbean, in ensuring that we protect this industry, what needs to be done, we need to have a harmonised approach, because what can happen, Mr. President, and that is why I am so grateful that we are ensuring that we remain competitive and attractive without compromising the price, as what other Regions may do, because if we are going to do that, we are going to have what we call a race to the bottom. So, I think Caribbean countries should not compromise on their due diligence standard. We must have a harmonised approach on due diligence. We are not going to compete on the prizes, and we must have a Regulatory Body like what you have... we have a Regulatory Body, globally, the Investment Migration Council. But, I think all Citizenship by Investment can come as... well, maybe they I think they have one, it's Caribbean Citizenship By Investment Association, which ensures that there are standardized approach. But, I am not sure how effective is that. So, Mr. President, I welcome these amendments, and I do support this Bill. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Mr. President:** Senator Roberts.

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Thank you, Mr. President.

**Mr. President:** Let me ask Senators that they have to be a little bit more alert, because the question was already put, you know. Senators, really, have to be alert in

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

the debate, because the Rules forbid that once the question is put and resolved, for us to go back, the question was already put, but I'll allow it to fly this time. But, Senators have to keep on top the flow of the event. Yes, Senator Roberts.

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** Thank you. Yes, you were sharp on that. Yes, Mr. President, I am standing to give some comments on the Citizen by Investment Programme, which, according to indicators, is something that is helping our Economy, in that, in 2017 it may have raised over one hundred and twenty-three million US dollars (US\$23 m); in 2018, about eighteen million US dollars (US\$18 m). The question is, how do we use that money wisely?

I believe with the funds that were established, we need to collaborate with experts, meaning not just people from the Government Side, but people within our country, who can help us steer our Economy, or our country in a direction that is sustainable. For example, it is said that this Programme may not last forever. So, how do we capitalize on the gush we have that the people wanting to come and be a Grenada citizen. Additionally, most of our Citizenship by Investment persons, or expats are people heading towards the Tourism Industry.

However, as a Nation how we are doing scholarships, it's not geared towards Tourism or Hospitality. Everything is different. Everybody wants to be a Lawyer, everybody wants to be doctor, but we are not channeling our girls and boys to be in the Service Industry, so that for these top brand hotels that are coming, who are getting the top jobs, are not us. So, how do we work to get our people to be at that level? How do we send them off targeting you are going to do 'x' to service 'y', as we go in deeper into the Citizenship by Investment Programme; that's one of my contributions.

Additionally, as we have the foreigners, who are getting the Passports by paying the money, we, too, have certain sections of our Economy, Mr. President. Persons, who would have, for example, were British citizens prior to 1974, because prior to 1974, all Grenadians were British citizens. When Independence came, you had a choice between being British or Grenadian, some people chose to be Grenadian. But, what they are

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

discovering now, is that their children are getting a hard time to get a Grenadian passport. So, for example I know one person, who is Grenadian, but for medical reasons was born in Trinidad, in the 60's. However, her children, now, because her birth is Trinidad, cannot get a Grenadian passport. Those are the things, I think we need to work on, as well, to make it easier for the people. I know we have done something for Sports, where grandchildren can be termed Grenadian born, but there are little loopholes, still, where people struggle to get citizenship for their siblings, or their generations.

So, I want us to look at that also, and added to that, in terms of CARICOM nationals, because we know we have this free movement, in terms of people doing Skills Certificate and can come to work. However, they cannot get permanent residence, or if you get permanent residence some people wait up to five (5) years, although on inquiry today from our learned Attorneys on the 'Other Side,' it's said that it's up to the Minister responsible to give you the citizenship within five (5) to one (1) year, or not less than one (1) year.

However, for a lot of people, who are living here and working for years, it is difficult to get citizenship, meaning normal citizenship. You must go through the permanent residence, and then you have to take a long time before the process is done. I am saying that, while we do this to ease up for the Economy, we could do very well to do the same for our own nationals and for other CARICOM nationals, if we are saying the Region is one, and that's my contribution. But, I would support the amendments, because we all want betterment for the country, and if that's a way we can get money and have a fund available, and let's see how we can all work together to make the money work for us. Thank you.

**Mr. President:** Senator Williams.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Sen. the Hon. Cathisha Williams:** Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise to endorse the Bill before us, and, Mr. President, I'll be very brief, because much of the salient points have already been made by the Members before me.

I must say that what this Bill seeks to do, through the amendments, is to make the process more streamlined and efficient, while maintaining the integrity of the programme through a strict vetting process.

It's important, Mr. President, for the Caribbean countries who have the CBI Programme in the OECS, there are five (5) of us, to have a concerted approach to protecting the programme, because I believe that there has been an effort, by the Developed Countries, and I don't know if it's deliberate, or not, to stymie the economies of developing countries. They did it with the Banana Industry. They have done it with the Offshore Sector. They did it with the IBCs and I am referring to the Bill that we passed in December to abolish International Trusts and International Businesses, and they are seeking to do it with the CBI and RBI Programmes. The EU Tax Three Commission has recommended that CBI Programmes in the Caribbean and other Small Developing countries such as us, to be phased out, as soon as possible. So, there is an attack on our CBI Programmes.

At the recent Special Meeting of the OECS, in Guadeloupe, to mark the ascension of Guadeloupe to the OECS, it was encouraging to hear the Heads of Government and the Commissioners express a renewed vigor, or resolution to stand up against these external forces to protect this Industry. And, I know that Grenada would play a big role in that, and I just wanted to let the House be aware of what is happening. They are attacking the CBI Programme, right, so we must do all that we can to protect it. Streamline our Programmes, streamline the process, make it more efficient, but continue to adhere to the strict standards, so that the integrity of our Programmes remains unassailable. So, we have another fight blooming, and I hope that we are all prepared to support this Programme, and protect this Programme, so that it doesn't experience the same fate, as the Offshore Industry, or the Banana Industry before it. Mr. President, that is my contribution.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Mr. President:** Thank you, Senator Williams. If I may just do a little appendage to what you have said. This morning, on the news, on BBC there was a report that a particular European country, part of the EU is considering joining the Belt and Road Project of the People's Republic of China. Well, I prefer not to call, I say, a particular country and I would keep it like that. But, that country has a significant Economy, and it has decided to; in fact a formal visit by the President of China is taking place shortly, if not already underway, to visit this country pursuant to the development of its Belt and Road, which is a massive Trade and Development Programme, unprecedented in the world, in terms of what is being undertaken.

And, there are other countries in the world that have said quite openly, it's opposed, in fact it was given what could be described, as instructions to EU Members Countries, that it ought not to participate in this Programme, simply because there's a perception that the programme would help to spread the influence. And, I was asking myself, what's really wrong with the spread of influence, if it is legitimately done. I am only making this point coming out of your presentation in December. I thought you were really 'bang-on' and very analytical. I mean, the debate was interesting then, because there were different perspectives. There was a perspective which I would describe, as a Colonial subjectivity perspective, and it was a nationalist progressive perspective, which says that in this world of fierce economic competition.

And if you don't believe that the world is facing fierce economic competition, you just have to look at what is happening even between neighbours, where the entire Trade Treaties that were established long ago is being ripped apart, and Tariffs are being imposed to break the will of people, and powerful economies. In cases like Canada, for example, having to face what I would describe, as the economic bullying of the mighty, simply because they are opposed to any changes in the structure of the World Economy, which would allow you to pursue a more independent and vigorous path. And, for you to be able to deal with the issues of poverty that has been persistent in our countries going back, even to the days of our fore parents' enslavement. I just

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

thought I would make that observation to sort of contextualize what is being said in respect to this Programme.

And, I think the last point that you made about the need for us to ensure the integrity of the Programme by maintaining high standards, cannot be overemphasised. I am not supposed to take part in the debate. I hope I wasn't. I was only just trying to pull the threads of the different parts of the discussion together. I just thought I would make that observation. Senator Stiell, I saw your light. Are you winding up now?

**Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** I am not the one who piloted it, so I am not winding up. I just wanted to make some...

**Mr. President:** Oh, sorry, it was Senator Garraway.

**Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** But, I just wanted to, certainly, add my support to the amendments that are being presented, and just to kind of string some of the themes together. We have heard the high value .....

**Mr. President:** I was usurping your position. I am sorry. *(Laughter)*

**Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell:** That's okay. That's okay. I would always bow to the President on these matters. So, the value, the economic value to Islands such as ours, is extremely high. It does add to that transformational component that we all seek for, within our Budgets, to do those extraordinary things, to propel our Economies.

But, Grenada has taken a very specific path, over these past years, with our Citizenship by Investment Programme, and that is one to focus on quality; we are not competing on price. There are others in the market whose main unique selling point is that of price. And, if we look at where prices have gone over these past few years, it is only gone down; it's almost a race to the bottom. But, Grenada's offering isn't based on price. We are one of the most expensive Programmes; if not the most expensive,

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

certainly within the Region. We are still able to get the traction that we require based on our economic needs. But, the focus is not just on the quality of the offering, but the quality of the applicants also. This isn't just about volume. Volume relates to income, but income alone isn't our focus. It is ensuring that those persons, who are seeking to invest are of the highest quality, if you like, of applicants, and that speaks to the security, that speaks to the integrity of the Programme, and minimizing the risks that are associated with it.

And, picking up the comments from Senator Williams, if others could follow the leadership that we have taken, I think some of those external threats, to some degree, could be dampened. As I said, the approach that we are taking is one that ensures that our security and integrity are put first. And, it's important that we work, regionally, we work with our neighbours, so that we are all not trying to capitalise and maximise the returns alone, but we do this, in a coordinated way, that ensures the reputation of the Programme in the Region. Because when people speak ill of this Programme, and they challenge us, as a Region for being part of this; notwithstanding the fact other Developed Countries feel that they should have the sole right to be able to offer their Programmes without challenge and with impunity. But, we have to work together. Grenada is doing what it has done, what it is doing. But, as I said, when persons malign the Programme, they will not single out Grenada for having done all of the right things. They put all of us, as Caribbean countries, involved in the CBI Programme in a single pot. So, my comment, really, is that we need hope that our neighbours follow the approach that we have taken in focusing on quality, on security, on integrity of the Programme.

Grenada is doing its part. We recognise that there is narrow window for this Programme, and we want to be able to achieve the most we can. But, we want to ensure that we do it properly and we are doing it with Grenada's best interest at heart. And, the amendments that are being put before us, simply enhance that offering, without compromising integrity and security. So, on that note, Mr. President, thank you.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Mr. President:** Senator Garraway.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I want to thank the Members for their support and contribution. I want to specially thank our young Senator Judd, for the research that he conducted to ensure that we have a better perspective, in terms of, what is out there and the resources you can raise. But, critically, if you're not mindful of the possibilities out there, you might be left in the ocean.

But, what we have been able to achieve as a country, re the CBI Programme has been tremendous. But, I daresay, at this point-in-time, Mr. President, that with all the resources that are being raised, the CBI resources are not used to meet our Recurrent Expenditures. So, we look at capital investment and that's where we're going, when we talk about the Transformational Fund being used to transform rural economies, to ensure that our Youth in Agriculture initiative is being supported; that's where we want to go.

We accept the fact that such Programmes sometimes do not last long. So, it's important to ensure that what you raise now, and Senator Roberts was speaking to that, what we raise now, how we utilise those funds to ensure that you maximise on the opportunities is important, and that's where we are going, as it relates to ensuring that the Transformational Fund is used to transform the entire country. So, I can say to you when you look at it, after Hurricane Ivan, we have a number of buildings that we consider to be derelict, an eyesore in the Town. There is an initiative to fix those things, make sure that we transform the areas of St. George, where we have probably Government buildings, as well. But, that's the move and the Transformational Fund is there and that's what, as the term says 'transformational', to transform and to uplift. That's where we are going with this.

And, as we have said, we have more attributes going for us than to reduce your Programme on the issue of costs. This Country is beautiful, our people are special. Those are things that folks want to come and live in peace, live in Paradise, the place

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Bills***

where you can get into it without having to die, Grenada, of course. So, what we're concerned about is ensuring that we maintain the integrity of this Programme and you're going to come here, because you want to. And, our cost is maintained. We are not going to be peddling in this war, for want of a better term, in terms of cost.

But, what is critical, Mr. President, we might take a longer time to qualify an individual into the Programme, because our due diligence, we do not compromise on this. So, we would take the time. We have been flagged more than once by some of the Agents saying, you take too long. We are trying to cut down on it, but not to compromise on the due diligence aspect. But, you said, it only takes one to really affect our integrity, and we do not want to take that chance, so we are doing everything.

And, I want to end by saying, I heard the concern raised by Senator Roberts on a kind of different issue, but I think relevant to this, as it relates to Grenadians, third generation Grenadians seeking to get citizenship and they are having difficulties. We, in this Honourable House, would have passed Legislation to ensure that third generation Grenadians can easily get citizenship. So, whatever the roadblocks, I think you probably have to revisit it, with your Lawyers, as the case may be, but it should be an easy process, because the Legislation is there to encourage third generation Grenadians. So, I am talking about if your grandparents are Grenadians, you have the right to getting citizenship to this country, just going through the normal process. Mr. President, with these words, I want to commend the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a second time.**

**Mr. President:** Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

**Senate resumed.**

**Mr. President:** Honourable Members, I wish to report that a Committee of the Whole House met and amended the Bill, accordingly. Senator Garraway.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway:** Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

**(Ag. Clerk converses with the President in private)**

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Mr. President:** It is just that the Clerk was telling me about the process and it slipped me. The process is that the bill goes back to the House. It cannot be assented to by the Governor-General, because of the amendments, which were made, so it automatically goes back to the House. I don't think that I had to make that announcement, but anyway.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to introduce for first reading a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority Treaty (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

**Ag. Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority Treaty Act Cap 85C shortly entitled, the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority Treaty (Amendment) Act, 2019.

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at this Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox, you have the floor.



*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, before us, in the Honourable Senate, this evening is the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority Treaty (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Mr. President, while this amendment may seem to be not a difficult amendment, but it's a very important and significant one towards ensuring and sustaining the integrity of the Treaty, and the purpose in which it was established to start with. By way of background, Mr. President, the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority otherwise known as ECTEL was established, right here, in Grenada, in May of 2000 at an OECS Heads of Government Meeting.

ECTEL, itself, Mr. President, basically comprise of three (3) components. We have the Council of Ministers, we have the Board of Directors and we have the NTRC, which is present in all the various OECS countries; so that is, in itself, the whole construct of ECTEL.

Mr. President, the purpose of this amendment, really and truly, is to bring the Treaty in line with changes in technologies that we see happening. Technology is changing so fast that Legislation has to be amended, from time to time to ensure that it captures those technological advancements, and to ensure that the Treaty remains relevant and it can be applied, in some cases, from a legal standpoint and have that relevance itself.

Mr. President, it was not long ago, we were hearing about 3G, and, just recently, we had DIGICEL launching LTE, which is a 4G network, and now we are hearing 5G is coming on stream. So, it is within that context that these amendments are required, to ensure that the integrity of the Treaty stays intact and that we are able to apply it to the various countries and the stakeholders, who are looking to expand their business.

Mr. President, basically, there are six (6) primary amendments to this bill. And, the first amendment seeks to replace the word 'telecommunications' with 'electronic communications'. Mr. President, the reason for that has to speak to the core definition of what 'telecommunications' mean, as against what 'electronic communications' mean, and putting it into context with the changes in the technology, as years gone by. Now,

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills**

electronic communication, Mr. President, would capture all this new technologies that we have, but what is understood is that the word 'telecommunications' would allow certain equipment and certain software to escape within that definition, hence the requirement, throughout this amendment Bill that the word 'telecommunications' would be replaced with 'electronic communications'.

Mr. President, we can speak to that right in our homes. Before, you have a refrigerator, which is an electrical device, you plug it on, your fridge cools. Now you have refrigerators that could even answer your phone for you, you could punch in, have electronic stuff, you can... when you get to the Supermarket, and your refrigerator reminds you on your phone how much groceries you have to get, so we are changing. And, so, it is within that context, these amendments are being made.

Mr. President, the second amendment has to do with replacing the words 'universal service' with the words 'universal service and access', and to revise the definition within the Act. Mr. President, this is critical, because Universal Service Fund, I am not sure if persons would have gone to some public places, and you have this public WiFi that you can log onto. All that access to public WiFi falls within this component of the Treaty and of this Bill where there is a mandate that there must be access through this Universal Service Fund by the Contractors who would give a contribution or percentage of their revenue to the various member countries, so that persons within the rural areas can have access to Internet, so you can have a greater penetration of the Broadband Internet into the rural communities.

The third amendment, Mr. President, has to do with the revising of the Frequency Definition. This also, again, is to bring the definition of frequency authorization within the context of new technology. And, so, Mr. President, throughout this entire Bill is basically changing the whole context, in terms of definition and bring it in line to what is taking place technologically in the Region and also in the world, and also looking futuristic, so as we continue to improve, as technologies continue to change that this Bill will also capture new and emerging technologies.

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Bills***

And, there are also some amendments in repeal and replace Article 11, paragraph 1 of the principal Bill and also Article 13, paragraph (1), Mr. President, and to repeal paragraph (2) of Article 17, which speaks to financial contribution by Member States toward dues. So, that is being repealed, that is no longer required under this new Bill.

So, Mr. President, in closing, this Bill basically, is bringing the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority into line, conforming it into contemporary technology and requirements within the Sector, to ensure that it stays relevant and that it can apply, it has the legal teeth, and so the regulations that it puts forward can be relevant and make sense whenever somebody requires a licence for a particular equipment. What you wouldn't want is somebody requesting a licence for a particular equipment, which, of course, the Bill or the Treaty is no way impossible to capture. So, this is what this Bill seeks to do. Mr. President, so with this I offer my second reading to this Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a second time.**

**Mr. President:** Senator Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Mr. President:** Actually, there is just one Clause, really and the Short Title.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

**Senate resumed.**

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Bills  
Adjournment**

**Mr. President:** Honourable Members, I have to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the Whole House and passed without amendment. Senator Cox.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

**Ag. Clerk Assistant:** Item 16 - Public Business.

Item 17 - Adjournment.

**Mr. President:** Okay. I guess this is an indication that we all wished for. We had a false start, but we made it through.

Honourable Members, there are just a couple of things, well, a little bit more than a couple of things that I just want to bring to the attention of Members of this House, particularly those Members sitting on the 'Government Side' of the House, coming out of today's session, and my own observations.

I made the point, earlier, about the need for us to don't allow the oil spill equipment to be mothballed; to ensure that the training, which was given with the equipment and the people who are trained can operate the equipment, if needs be.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

***Adjournment***

This is so important and the devastating effects of an oil spill on our economy and our ecology can be so devastating, remembering that we just really occupy a small place, Senator Garraway, that I don't believe that we could wait much longer to have these exercises and the consequential effect of such a spill and our incapacity to handle it efficiently, would be so great that in the same way, as we have annual exercises for other disasters, I want to strongly suggest, I want to strongly suggest that this exercise be done, annually, and not biannually, as the case might be. I believe that this is so important for us.

Secondly, on the environmental issues of dumping, creating an environment for vectors and the spread of diseases, like Dengue, by mosquitoes, I am fully in accordance with Senator Stiell and his statement in respect to illegal dumping. It is happening all over the country and it's sad. Not only are these things dumped, but also our pristine environment is affected.

We have to be clear on something. People who leave North and come to our shores are coming, because the pristine environment is at a premium. People who live, all of their lives, or most of their lives in a highly industrialised concrete environment are coming to engage with nature, to see nature in its pristine setting, and the premium of this thing is increasing. And, from my own observations, I am hurt when I see a number of things happening, which degrade the environment.

My home is situated where I could look up and see that beautiful mountain and that forest reserve of teak that goes all the way up to the Prison, and I have spoken about this before. I have communicated with the Commissioner of Prisons; the constant dumping of garbage, coming from the Prison, must stop. And, now that we have the Dry Season, because there have been no significant replanting of trees; so what has happened in the Rainy Season, what grows there, mainly, is vine, the first to die in the Dry Season and it exposes the dumping of garbage.

So, here you have the Cruise Ship, coming into one of the most picturesque Harbours in the Caribbean, and when you look up on the mountain side from which you can see, you're seeing streaks of garbage. I have taken photographs of it, and you can

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

***Adjournment***

see it yourself. Why can't people, who are confined to the Prison and sentenced to hard labour, plant beautiful trees of which we have many? Our National Flower, the Bougainvillea, it's in the pink of its bloom during the Dry Season. Why can't that hill be littered with Bougainvillea, which, at the same time, is a protective barrier, because it's barbed. But, when you look up at that hill from the Prison and I hope the Commissioner can hear me and for those in the appropriate Tourism Authority, what you are seeing is garbage, and the source of that garbage could only be from the Prison. They seemed to be dumping all the furniture waste and all of the stuff you see. It's totally unsightly. It's not in keeping with our Pure Grenada image.

Secondly, there are constant outbreaks of Vector Borne Diseases, and one of the culprits adding to this are the wayside garages that we have all along the roads and the old vehicles that gather water. And, a number of these are strewn along the routes, where most of the visitors travel to go to engage the ambience. We have an ambience in this country of a kind of tropical Paradise and you can see it, and because we are mountainous and we have different micro climates, as you climb that Grand Etang going up, not everything is dry, and there is the greenery. But, strewn along the roadside are old abandoned vehicles and garages, which cut off the sidewalks, and old abandoned vehicles that gather water and provide a safe haven for pests and vermin of different types. Something has got to be done. The Environmental Protection people have got to get going. We have to tackle and end this problem. It is very unsightly.

Then, I want to address another matter along the same theme. I said to you, people who travel from these highly industrialized centres of concrete, come to engage in the ambience. And, what has been happening to us is that many of our tropical sites, with its greenery are being massacred. People are cutting down the trees. Travel through the Grand Etang. I invite all Senators to travel through the Grand Etang hills this weekend, if you can, on Sunday, because it's a time I drive around and I relax, and the Grand Etang has been butchered. The Bamboo Groves have angered someone and so they are assaulting our Groves. The Groves that give you that nice, green, tropical ambience, you can smell the freshness in the air and see the greenery. And, then on

***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Adjournment***

the side of the hillsides that have the Grand Etang fern, they are chopping the ferns down, exposing the banks, they are cleaning. They are cleaning as if, like when I went to the Barber Shop a couple days ago. They are cleaning the side of these banks, so that at the first rains, which fall you have hundreds of mini slides. You must recognise the beauty of the ferns along the hillside. There is no need to cut them down. All you need to do is to trim these things.

When the British built the Grand Etang road, and I want you to observe carefully, all on the cliff side they planted Bamboo, and they weren't using steel to reinforce this embankment. It was limestone and bricks, plant on the next, one on the other. I invite you to examine, carefully. Wherever the Bamboo Groves have been cut down, the roads have collapsed. Wherever the Groves remain, immediately behind those walls which don't have steel, some steel reinforced walls have collapsed, not those stone structures. You know how long our Forts have been existing? I am saying to you that the people, who are debushing, nobody is supervising them, and I am not blaming them, at all, because they are given a job to clean. Nobody is guiding them. I mean, I was shocked, two (2) weeks ago, driving through the Grand Etang, when I saw what was done to the Bamboo Groves, and, on the sides, all of the ferns are now cut down. And, what happens is that, as you remove the ferns and you destroy the rooting system and you expose those ferns to the sun, with all the climate changes, what grows back afterwards, in the Rainy season, is not fern, but an invasive species of grass. And, if we continue like that, that beautiful fern that you see, that captures your senses going up to the Grand Etang, would be completely lost, and the tropical ambience that brings people here, I don't know, I find it psychologically satisfying, when I drive through the countryside, but that is under assault. And, therefore, I am appealing to the authorities, first and foremost, debushers must be supervised. Sometime ago, there was an attack on the entire...

**Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts:** The Fall Edge.

*Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.*

**Adjournment**

**Mr. President:** Not just the Fall Edge. And, again, they are removing those trees, so when the trees die now, then you have the erosion of the roads and these roads are collapsing. But, that beautiful Park, which was started by an Expatriate and trees and were planted, they hacked the trees down and this is happening, widespread, over the country. So, I am appealing, especially to the 'Government Side' to take immediate action.

If you go to a place like Annandale, for example, it's being urbanised; and, as, you know, as you cut the trees down, then there is less water. So, I wouldn't be surprised, if not too long from now, you can't advertise the Annandale Falls, because it would be disappearing, and there seem to be no control from Physical Planning. We have not done any sort of physical planning control of how we are going to develop this country, and where we are going to preserve. So, I just thought that I would make those points. I may sound passionate, because I am, indeed, passionate about it, because, you know, it's inconsistent with the theme we have developed of 'Pure Grenada.' Pure Grenada, Land of Spice, you know, and I really want to make this impassioned plea, as best, as I can to the appropriate authority to take action.

In fact, I had to call a Permanent Secretary, when I saw a gang hacking down all of the Bamboo. And, when I spoke to the individual he said, "Mister, I get a job to cut them down and I am cutting them down". I could not understand why, I mean, anyone in their right mind could do such a thing. And, again, I repeat my call, drive through the Grand Etang today, and you would see what is happening to our Bamboo Grove. And, there is absolutely no need to do what is being done, no need, and it creates an expense for the State, because at the first rains, we would have a series of mini slides, because all the ferns have been removed, and there is nothing holding up that soil. So, Senators on the 'Government Side', those who are in Ministries, those who sit in the Cabinet, I make a special appeal to you to take action on the matters that I have raised, and I thank you.

Again, I wish to remind Senators of the activity on the visit of the British Royalty on Saturday. Senators ought to be here, I would say, no later than 11:30. We should



***Sitting of the Senate  
Held at the Parliament Chamber  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.***

***Adjournment***

strive to be here at 11:30 and be seated. I think it's very important for us, and I want to urge all of you to make this possible. And, I wish you all the best for the weekend and a good evening. Thank you.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate adjourned sine die at 4:20 p.m.**

**PREPARED BY**

**HANSARD REPORTERS**

Miss Janelle Palmer

Mrs. Raquel Morgan

Miss Sadio Bayne

**EDITORS**

Mr. Andrew Augustine (Clerk)

Ms. Daniele Blackman (Secretary to the Clerk)