



GRENADA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Tenth Parliament

OFFICIAL REPORT

SENATE

Friday 25th May, 2018

Table of Contents

Attendance	3
Prayers	4
Announcements	4
Oath of Allegiance.....	5
Motion to Rearrange the Order Paper	5
Motions.....	6 – 12
Bills	12 – 14
Oath of Allegiance (Recommitted).....	14 – 15
Minutes.....	15 – 22
Announcements (Recommitted).....	22 – 23
Papers/Reports.....	23 – 24
Questions	24 – 25
Motions (Recommitted)	25 – 31
Adjournment	31 – 32

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday 25th May, 2018

Attendance

PRESENT

Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information
Senator the Honourable Norland Cox	- Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts
Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway	- Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information
Senator the Honourable Kim George	- Member
Senator the Honourable Cathisha Williams	- Member
Senator the Honourable Kerryne James	- Member
Senator the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead	- Member
Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts	- Member
Senator the Honourable Dr. Dunstan Campbell	- Member
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	- Member

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Judd Cadet	- Member
-----------------------------------	----------

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Prayers
Announcements

The Sitting of the Senate began at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Norland Cox.

(Senate prayer was said)

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox, Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts: Honourable Members please join me in the Lord's Prayer.

(The Lord's Prayer was said)

Mr. President: Honourable Members, pray be seated. Thank you, Honourable Members. (One second). Honourable Members, I wish to take this opportunity, at the first convocation of the House of Senate, following the March 13th Elections, to welcome you all to the House.

I would have liked to have a more elaborate welcome, but this particular Sitting of the House has a very specific objective and a very specific purpose, so to do, and it is called primarily, to make amendments to the Appropriation Act, 2018, as when the Appropriation Act became Law last year, following the General Elections there have been new Ministries, and, therefore require new allocations, etcetera, etcetera. Because the spending of State resources is governed by Law, it is absolutely necessary for these amendments to be made to apportion the necessary Votes to the new Ministries and this must be done by a particular time, to ensure that workers and others can be paid.

The Leader of Government's Business will give you more details on that matter. But, I just wish to forewarn you, so as to forearm you that today's Session, the focus will be on making the necessary amendments to the Appropriation Act of 2018 in the Appropriation Bill (Amendment) Act before us, 2018. Please be guided accordingly, Honourable Members, and I thank you.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Oath of Allegiance

Motion to Rearrange the Order Paper

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

Mr. President: Senator De Allie.

(Senator De Allie approaches the Clerk's Table)

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: I, Christopher De Allie, do swear that I will faithfully bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Second, Her Heirs and Successors according to Law. So Help Me God.

(Senator De Allie signs the Oath Book and returns to his seat)

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, based on the introduction that you made and the time sensitivity of the passing of the presentation of the Appropriation Amendment Motion and the associated Bill, I wish to move a Motion that we reorder the Order Paper. We take the Motion and the Bills first. We get that through the House and then we can continue on through the Order Paper.

I also wish to correct the Order Paper, Line Item 15 – Bills. It refers to the Appropriation 2018 (Amendment) Act, whereas that should be corrected to a Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Order Paper rearranged.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

*Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018*

Motions

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name:

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the amendments to the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year, January 1st to December 31st, 2018 be approved.

Question proposed.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, as this is a Money Motion, I wish to inform this Honourable House that I have the Speaker's Certificate allowing me to proceed.

Mr. President, the Motion before us is as a consequence of the March 2013 General Elections, when the new Government, the new National Party Government set about its strategic realignment of Ministries, bringing greater efficiency to the operations of Government and providing greater focus in key development Priority Areas, such as Climate Change, Resource Mobilisation, Implementation and Youth Development, to name but a few.

Mr. President, the Motion before us, therefore, seeks to amend the Appropriation Act previously passed in this House, by repealing and replacing the Appropriation Schedule that is associated with the Bill. It is important to note, Mr. President, that the amendment seeks to reallocate funds only; no additional funds are being appropriated.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions

Reallocations would come from funds already approved in the 2018 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

However, although the Estimates remain unchanged, because of the changes in allocations to the individual Ministries, it is necessary under the Public Finance Management Act that was passed in 2015, that we must bring this before Parliament.

So, Mr. President, I will quickly run through some of the key changes that have been presented before us. First of all, and the most significant is the creation of a new Ministry, the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information. This is a bold step and very progressive step by this Administration. This is the first Government within the Region, and one of the first, internationally, to establish a Ministry of Climate Resilience. And, this is recognising the need for us as a Nation, for us as a Government, to take a far more strategic approach to Climate Change. Climate Change, as we all know is one of the greatest threats that is facing, not only Grenada, but countries worldwide, and in particular, highly vulnerable Small Island Developing States, such as Grenada. So it recognises the need for Grenada to become far more resilient to environmental shocks. We have seen the impact of a very active Hurricane Season last year, the damage and destruction that was caused to many of our neighbours, and let us not forget our own experiences in 2004/2005, the Hurricanes, Ivan and Emily. So, by becoming more resilient and having this National focus on building resilience, it means we would be able to sustain less damage during an environmental shock, and then we will be able to recover far faster afterwards.

But, the new Ministry, Mr. President, also seeks to take advantage of the opportunities that exist, globally, with Climate financing, the billions of dollars that are available to Small Island Developing States, such as Grenada, which would provide us with the necessary resources to build that said resilience. And, by combining climate resilience with the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions

Information, it also enables Grenada to take a far more strategic approach in protecting and strengthening our natural resources.

Mr. President, funding that was previously allocated to the Ministries of the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries that existed within the Ministry, or previous Ministry of Agriculture, have now been reassigned to the Ministry of Climate Resilience; and likewise funding that was apportioned to Disaster Management and Information, which was previously held under the Ministry of National Security have now been brought under the Ministry of Climate Resilience. And, the total allocation under Vote 28, the Ministry of Climate Resilience et al, is \$17.4 m.

Mr. President, the creation of this new Ministry also ties in closely with the realignment of the Ministries of Implementation and the Energy Divisions, which have now been brought under the Ministry of Infrastructural Development, Public Utilities, Energy, Transportation and Implementation, the Ministry formally known as the Ministry of Works, and the move of the Portfolio of Economic and Physical Development to the Ministry of Finance. These four (4) Ministries, these four (4) areas that will now work hand-in-glove, in terms of achieving our goal to maximise resource mobilisation, the Ministry of Climate Resilience; the Division of Economic and Technical Co-operation, within the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its international relations and the Ministry of Implementation would now be working in concert, whether it is using our international relations through Foreign Affairs, whether it is a project identification, preparation, resource identification, through Climate Resilience, or through the Department of Economic and Technical Co-operation; all come together, but then the critical thing is the ability to implement those projects.

We would fail, if we are able to identify and develop new projects, secure the financial resources by our inability to implement those. So, there is a strategic push, in terms of the alignment of all of these areas, and show they are joined up, the connectivity, the approach that this Administration is taking. So, the sum of twenty-

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions

seven million dollars (\$27 m) has been moved from the Ministry, formerly known as the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Planning to the Ministry of Finance.

The final change that I wish to highlight is the move from the Ministry of Culture, from Tourism to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. And, by combining these three (3) Portfolios, these three (3) areas, Youth, Sports and Culture, is recognising the significant opportunities that exist for the development of our youth in these areas. We already have seen significant success by young sportsmen and women, both nationally, regionally and internationally, and that's already being built upon within the Ministry of Youth, but now pulling in Culture, where, again, we have so many talented, young men and women in the areas of the Performing Arts and the Creative Arts, is to be able to draw upon that, and pour out those opportunities that will help us develop and raise our youth in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

So, Mr. President, in closing, the Motion before us seeks to amend the allocation of funds between Ministries, and this is in accordance with the strategic refocusing of this new Administration. This is a clear signal to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and to the Public Service that this new Administration will operate during this new term; how it will operate will not be business, as usual, Mr. President.

So, this Motion, however, does not seek to amend the total amount approved in the 2018 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of one billion, one hundred and twelve million, thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars (\$1,112,039,938.00).

Mr. President, it is for all of the reasons that I have just discussed that I commend this Motion to this Honourable House. I thank you.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator Stiell. Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, you have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox, Minister for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions

give my full support to the passage of this Motion, and, of course, the bill that goes with it.

Mr. President, this amendment Bill really and truly, apart from everything that is said by the Leader of Government's Business, I think really highlights a very important action by Government, one that was created through our Structural Adjustment Programme, where we made certain legislative changes and improvements, and one of those is the passage of the Public Finance Management and also the Fiscal Responsibility Act. And, this amendment this evening, basically, is showing that Government is keeping in line with what it sets out to do, to ensure that we do not, in anyway, interfere or create any harm to our fiscal stability by just making ad hoc amendments, or adding to our budget, but to ensure that we keep in line, and to secure those gains that we would have had, in terms of how we did business before and how we are doing it now after the Structural Adjustment Programme.

So, Mr. President, I believe that this is a clear indication that, that legislation was very much needed to keep each and every one of us in check, to ensure that we just don't go on a spending spree, and forces us to make those changes. While we have new Ministries and changes in Portfolios are reconfigured, but also what is most important, we are doing that without adding any new monies to the 2018 Budget at this current time. So, I think this is very instructive and because of this and those reasons mentioned by the Leader of Government's Business, I want to again, extend my full support to the passage of this amendment. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator Cox. Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: Thank you very much, Mr. President, and, Mr. President, I rise to give my full support to the passage of the Act before us; and, first of

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions

all, to just apologize for my tardiness in arriving here. I do apologize for that, knowing my responsibilities to this Honourable House.

Mr. President, to give support to what was said by my previous speakers, and also to say that this amendment here before this Honourable House today, as was expressed before is not bringing in new monies, or asking for allowances to spend more, but to spend what was appropriated at the last Budget, which was read late last year. And, what brought us to this place, Mr. President, as was said by the Leader of Government's Business, is the fact that after the last General Elections, Government would have looked at creating ways in achieving the objectives that the people has given it the mandate to do, and in so fulfilling that mandate, have decided to create what the people call the 'Super Ministry', the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information.

This Bill before us today is extremely important, because it now gives the Government the ability to spend in this new Ministry. And, given that come June 1st will be the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, it's important to note, Mr. President, that we need to spend monies, re, vis-à-vis, our work towards ensuring that we are fully prepared and ready for whatever eventualities that should come, re this Hurricane Season. So, in as much as we have to spend, we need the authority to spend and this Act will give us the authority; I think it is right and fitting to say that we are on the right track. And, as one of our Leaders would say, we are on a good wicket to bat, so let us score runs, and this is what we are going to do in this cycle of building this economy. And, I want to take this moment, Mr. President, to give my full support in ensuring that the passage of this Bill succeeds in the House here this afternoon. Thank you very much.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions
Bills

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, if there are no more comments, I want to thank the contributors on 'This Side' for their comments. And for all of the reasons that have been stated in support of this Motion, I now commend this Motion to this Honourable House.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 15 - Bills.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, I beg to introduce for first reading a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Appropriation 2018 (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Ag. Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Appropriation (2018) Act, 2017 to redirect the sum not exceeding one billion, one hundred and twelve million, thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars (\$1,112,039,938.00), as appropriated by the Appropriation (2018) Bill, 2017, for the service of the State of Grenada for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2018, to facilitate the reorganisation of the expenditure Votes, to reflect the Ministerial Portfolios, as effected on March 29th, 2018, shortly entitled, Appropriation 2018 (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

*Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018*

Bills

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: 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 Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill, and I wish to indicate to this Honourable House that I have the Speaker's Certificate, which allows me to proceed with this Bill.

Question proposed.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, we ran through the earlier Motion that this Bill effectively enacts. So, in terms of the explanation, in terms of the justification, that has already been provided. The Bill before us, as I said, simply enshrines that in the legal framing that is needed to allow what was expressed within that Motion to move forward, and it is for those reasons, Mr. President, that I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Bills

Oath of Allegiance (Recommitted)

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and passed.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of this Bill.

Mr. President: For the rookie Members, a Finance Bill does not need to go through to the Committee Stage, it can go straight, because it is a Finance Bill, and that is what is being currently done.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill and passed.

(Senator Stiell was reminded that the procedure was already completed)

Mr. President: I need a brief adjournment.

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

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Oath of Allegiance (Recommitted)
Minutes

(Senator De Allie approaches the Clerk's Table)

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: I, Christopher De Allie, do swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of Deputy President without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, and that in the execution of the functions of that Office, I will honour, uphold and preserve the Constitution of Grenada. So Help Me God.

(Senator De Allie signs the Oath Book).

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 4 - Confirmation of Minutes.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Grenada Trade Centre on Wednesday, 24th January, 2018 be taken as read.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes taken as read.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Grenada Trade Centre on Wednesday, 24th January, 2018 be confirmed.

Question proposed.

Mr. President: Once second, Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Mr. President, in going through the Minutes, I saw a couple little things, so I don't know if this is the time that we could make corrections.

Mr. President: Yes, you can. This is the time for it.

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Okay. Do I sit or stand? Thank you.

Okay, so let me just point out on page 75, the sixth paragraph, it doesn't read so well. "***The Leader of Government's Business mentioned two (2) options in that the reports could be withdrawn...***".

Mr. President: One second, I am trying to pick up where you are talking about.

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Sixth paragraph.

Mr. President: Yes. Let me just get that reference. What line in that paragraph?

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Okay. The third; "***that are laid could be...***"

Mr. President: Yes.

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: I didn't find it read well, when I got it.

Mr. President: You mean that sentence which begins with "***he queried***" is that what you're making reference to?

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: “The Leader of Government’s Business mentioned two (2) options ...”

Mr. President: On page 75?

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Well, 75, I think that’s what I am seeing here.

Mr. President: Clerk, you’ve got to help me here. I am not seeing her reference. Okay. I am seeing it, the printing seem to be different, because for me it’s not the sixth paragraph, at all, it’s the fifth paragraph. The page opens with the end of a sentence, alright, so it’s the fifth paragraph. “***The President stated that the Senate...***”, is that what you’re talking about? “***The Leader of Government’s Business mentioned two (2) options***”, yes, take me through that correction...

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: “***In that the reports could be withdrawn and the other that a commitment be given in that, subject to receiving the amendment to the copies that are laid could be provided...***” I find it’s just ambiguous thus what will go into the formal records would have the necessary signed sheets attached to it.

Mr. President: I would agree that it is badly written. You want to offer an amendment? Senator Stiell, can you recall these details?

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information: Well, is there a proposal as to how we could reword it?

Mr. President: Well, that is what I am soliciting, because I can’t, in all honesty, recall... (**The Leader of Government’s Business reviews the Minutes**) Okay. Could

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

I suggest, (because time is moving on), that we, at this stage, suspend the Confirmation and go back to the Hansard, to see if we can properly track what this paragraph is attempting to say. I do not have the freshness of mind that I can pull up what was being debated at the time and, therefore, I can give very little assistance in this matter. But, I must agree that it's badly constructed.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: It sounds clumsy, Mr. President, but I think what it was trying to say up to "***The Leader of Government's Business mentioned two (2) options in that the reports can be withdrawn and the other that on receiving...***" If I could propose and then we can close the matter, or...

Mr. President: Well, I am uncomfortable with that, and you see I don't have, and I can't speak for others, but certainly for myself. I won't want to approve the Minutes in which there are inaccuracies and lack of clarity and this entire paragraph is confusing. I don't have the presence of fact to determine whether an amendment along the lines that you are proposing would in effect make sense. I don't know, so I think the safest thing for us to do and I can see no harm, or as the Attorneys would say and we have two of them on 'This Side', I can't see the perpetuation of any mischief, if we await the next Sitting, having been advised properly from the Hansard what was intended, and we make those changes. There is nothing riding on this that should prevent us from proceeding with the suspension of the Confirmation.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Mr. President, just for my clarity and understanding.

Mr. President: Yes, Senator De Allie. You have the floor.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Through the Clerk and yourself.

(Senator De Allie remained seated).

Mr. President: We are not in Committee Stage, Sir.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Yes. Sorry, Mr. President. Just for my understanding and clarity. Am I to understand that when the Minutes is done the exact phrases and words are taken from the Hansard and put in the Minutes? So, if that is the case, then the Minutes is probably correct. It's probably how the Leader of Government's Business phrased it at the time wasn't right. But, does the Clerk have the authority to change what is said?

Mr. President: No. But, context is important, and if you are not capturing the context of what is said...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: But, I understand what it's saying, Mr. President. I understand there were two options, either withdraw it, or when the report is received the amendment is made when it's laid. That is what it is saying to me. So, I understood what it's saying. So, I just want to know, if we could change it if it has to be written word for word what is said.

Mr. President: Well, no, when we refer to the Hansard, if we give ourselves the time, then it may very well confirm what you are saying, in which case there is no need to amend. But, because I am uncomfortable with this, so I don't want to put the question. I don't want to put the question, because I am missing the context, because it's not fresh enough in my mind for me to be able to make a determination on this, and this is why I am suggesting that we visit the Hansard and we can't do this right now and

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

to make a determination on whether or not this stands correct or whether or not we need to make an alteration to it. I just don't know.

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President...

Mr. President: Yes, Senator Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: Mr. President, in as much as we are looking at some corrections I'd like us to direct our...

Mr. President: One second. Clerk, we need to clarify this. Could you take a note of it? And, then next meeting we will come back to it. Yes, Senator Garraway, you have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: Yes. I would like to direct our attention to the fifth leaf on this Minutes, which is the record of attendance. It appears that...

Mr. President: The record of attendance...

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: Yes, Senator Peter David...

Mr. President: One minute, one minute.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: ... is both absent and present.

Mr. President: Who is it you were referring to?

Sen. the Hon. Winston Garraway, Minister of State wrf Disaster Management and Information: At the time, it was Senator the Honourable Peter David, as Member, he was both absent and present.

Mr. President: Again, I have no recollection. It certainly can't have been both and again I have no recollection. Again, we will have to rely on the Hansard Reporters, but this is, obviously, a contradictory record.

(Clerk converses with President)

Okay. I am advised by the Clerk that according to the record in the book, he was absent, so that's an amendment. Under those present, we should strike off the Honourable Peter David, because, in fact, he was absent on that day, so we should note that. Yes, Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, if there are a number of various amendments, would it be better; we're already going to have to defer the Minutes. We just defer it and then we, the Parliamentary staff review it, check against records, check against the Hansard and...

Mr. President: Yes, but it certainly would be helpful, Senator Stiell for us to pick up all of the errors, if we can now, so we don't have to go through this exercise, when the Senate meets on the next occasion.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Minutes

Announcements (Recommitted)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: But, then we will be going through it, page by page, now to check it, that's what's being proposed?

Mr. President: Well, it's more expeditious, else we will have to go through this whole exercise, again, so let's just get it over with and finish. Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts.

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Mr. President, there is one other on page 70 under Ministerial Statements, second paragraph, one, two, second sentence. It says: ***"He advised that he had made a commitment for another engagement at 2:30 since 'the' believed..."*** I think it should be ***'he'***.

Mr. President: Yes. Any objection Senators to that amendment? Fine. The Clerk notes the amendment. Okay. I think we can proceed along the lines; so Honourable Members, we suspend the taking of the Confirmation of the Minutes to afford access to the Hansard to determine what should be in the paragraph, as pointed out.

Question put and agreed to.

Confirmation of Minutes suspended.

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

Item 6 - Announcements by Mr. President.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, I made the announcement, which I wanted to make already, so we can move on. Just to add that, I hope on the next occasion, I'll be able to welcome the new Senators much more fully, which reminds me that I should give a reminder that the Clerk's Office did make a request for a brief Biography from all

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Announcements (Recommitted)
Papers/Reports

new Senators, so that we can... I can do this most appropriately. It is my understanding that we are yet to receive those, not instruments, as it were, from some Senators; so just a gentle reminder that you should try to fulfil this request.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 7 - Ministerial Statements.

Item 8 - Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select
Committees.

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

1. Report of the Director of Audit Grenada on the Financial Statements of the Grenada National Training Agency the (GNTA) for the year ended 31st December, 2017.
2. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Office of the Ombudsman for the year ended 31st December 2016.
3. Grenada Investment Development Corporation (GIDC) 2016 Annual Report.
4. The 2018 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Mr. President: It is hereby ordered that the following Reports and Papers be so laid on the Table.

For the new Senators, just let me indicate that these Reports and Papers are exceedingly important, and it's an important part of your business. By way of a Motion brought, these Reports can be examined, these reports can lay the basis for questions, so that when you get these Reports, you have a duty to study them and where there is

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Papers/Reports
Questions

lack of clarity in the Report, or there is something, which you wish to say about the Report, you can do so by way of a Motion that you can bring and the Report can be debated. Just to give you the knowledge of how these things work.

So, these Reports are not just to be taken and put away. Most of these Reports would come from Statutory Bodies. They are very important from the different Agencies of Government. There are other Financial Reports, which come out of the Audit, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, and it's important for you to study those, because in the Senate your duty is to have the Executive accountable. The Constitution makes this absolutely clear that the Executive is answerable to the Legislature for the work that it is doing and a lot of this work, in terms of the Annual Review of the business, of the Businesses set up by Statutes and different Divisions are contained in these Papers. So, they are exceedingly important; so I just thought I would give you that information for purposes of your own benefit.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 9 - Petitions.

Item 10 - Government Notices.

Item 11 - Unofficial Notices.

Item 12 - Questions.

Mr. President: New Senators, under this Item, you can lodge questions with the Clerk and these questions can be wide-ranging. I would ask you to spend a moment, sometimes, studying your Standing Orders, because the Standing Orders give you your responsibilities. It tells you your privilege, it sets out the procedures of how things can be done. But, this also is a very important component part in the proceedings of the House. Questions are very, very, very important and you know you ought to give consideration to that, and it's very simple, seven (7) days before the Meeting of the House you file your questions to the Clerk, and there are rules governing questions and their contents and you can read those, they are fairly straightforward.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Questions
Motions (Recommended)

If you are uncertain of anything, you can get that information through the Clerk, or you can contact me through the Clerk's Office. But, again, it's a very important part of your activity in this Senate. So, again, I want to urge you to be proactive in this. The Nation is looking at us. We are here representing different Bodies and, as a Chamber of Review, we ought to take our responsibilities seriously in that regard. So, another intervention, on my part, to prepare you for the work that lies ahead. Thank you.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 13 - Personal Explanation.
Item 16 - Public Business.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, could we now go back and complete? There are still some other Motions there that we have to go through; so 14 (a).

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 14 (a).

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

WHEREAS debate on the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the First Session of the 10th Parliament on Friday, 27th April, 2018 was deferred to a date to be named;

BE IT RESOLVED that the said Address be now debated.

Question proposed.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

*Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018*

Motions (Recommitted)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, I wish to propose an amendment to this Motion to read:

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

Mr. President: Honourable Members, there is an amendment to the existing Motion, and that amendment is:

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

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

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

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

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 63 (1a), the Committee of Selection of the Senate's Revised Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the President as Chair and two (2) other Senators to be known as the Committee of Selection;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate doth now appoint the two (2) other Senators to the said Committee.

Question proposed.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, by way of explanation, for each Session of Parliament, it is necessary to appoint Senate Members to the following Committees, four (4) Committees: the Committee of Selection; Standing Orders Committee; House Committee and Committee of Privileges.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions (Recommitted)

Just by way of explanation, the Committee of Selection is to select and to propose to the Senate, Members of each of these Senate Committees; and for any such matters as the Senate sees fit to be referred to this Committee from time to time.

The Standing Orders Committee, Mr. President, considers matters concerning the Standing Orders; if they need to be amended, if they need to be modified in any way, they would be referred to that said Committee.

The Third, the House Committee considers and advises the President on matters concerning the comfort and convenience of Senators. The fourth and final Committee, the Committee of Privileges, any matters affecting the powers or privileges of the Senate will be referred to this Senate Committee.

So, moving on, Mr. President, to the nominations for the Committee of Selection, the nominees, Mr. President are Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell, myself, and that would need to be seconded by a Member on 'This Side'. The second Member, Senator the Honourable André Lewis (Member), and the Chairmanship would be under the President.

Mr. President: The Motion would need a seconder from 'This Side'.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Mr. President, I beg to second the Motion moved by the Leader of Government's Business.

Mr. President: Motion has been duly seconded, and I'll now put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Nominations / Motion approved.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions (Recommitted)

Mr. President: So, as it stands the Committee of Selection will be constituted by Senators the Honourable Simon Stiell, André Lewis and your humble servant. Leader of Government's Business.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: WHEREAS Standing Order No. 63 (1b) of the Senate Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the President as Chairman and two (2) Members to be known as the Standing Orders Committee, which shall be elected, as soon as may be after the beginning of each Session;

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

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Mr. President, the nominees for the Standing Orders for this Committee are: Senator the Honourable Norland Cox (Member), Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts (Member), under the Chairmanship of the President.

Mr. President: Seconders to this Motion. Senator the Honourable André Lewis.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr. President: The Motion having been duly seconded, the question will now be put that the Standing Orders Committee be constituted by the following persons, Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts, President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Chester Humphrey.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions (Recommitted)

Question put and agreed to.

Nominations / Motion approved.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: WHEREAS Standing Order No. 63 (1c) of the Senate Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the President, a Chairman and two (2) Members to be known as the House Committee;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate doth now appoint the two (2) Members to the said Committee.

Mr. President, the nominees for the House Committee; Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway (Member), Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie (Member), under the Chairmanship of the President.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, the question is that the following Senators constitute the House Committee. Oh, sorry, seconder? Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts.

Sen. the Hon. Glynis Roberts: Mr. President, I beg to second the Motion presented.

Mr. President: The Motion having been seconded, the House Committee is now constituted in the following manner: Senators Winston Garraway, Chris De Allie, Senator Chester Humphrey, President of the Senate.

Question put and agreed to.

Nominations / Motion approved.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions (Recommitted)

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: WHEREAS Standing Order No. 63 (1d) of the Senate Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Committee to consist of the President, as Chairman, and four (4) Members to be known as the Committee of Privileges, which shall be elected, as soon as may be, after the beginning of each Session;

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

Mr. President, the proposed nominees for the Committee of Privileges are: Senator the Honourable Cathisha Williams (Member)...

Mr. President: I didn't get that.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Senator the Honourable Cathisha Williams (Member), Senator the Honourable Kim George (Member), Senator the Honourable Dunstan Campbell (Member) and Senator the Honourable Ron Redhead (Member), under the Chairmanship of the President.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, the question is..., sorry, seconders, seconders for the constituting of this Committee. Senator the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Redhead: Mr. President, I do so second the Motion put forward by the...

Mr. President: Unfortunately, you are a Member of the Committee, so, we would require someone else on the 'Other Side'.

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Motions (Recommitted)
Adjournment

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator Chris De Allie. Honourable Members, the question is that the Committee of Privileges be constituted with the following Senators: Senators the Honourable Cathisha Williams, Kim George, the Honourable Dr. Dunstan Campbell, the Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, and Senator the Honourable Chester Humphrey, as President.

Question put and agreed to.

Nominations / Motion approved.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 17 - Adjournment.

Mr. President: You have the floor, Senator Stiell. For purposes of newcomers, again, under this Item, any Senator can raise any matter of public importance, and you have a maximum of ten (10) minutes within which to do so. Yes, so just take note of that, that it is your right, under this Item of the Adjournment to raise any matter of Public Importance that you may consider to have such importance and that which you would wish the House to take note of. Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business: Thank you, Mr. President. In begging to move for the Adjournment, Mr. President, I would ask if it is customary, since this is the first Sitting of this Session, for certainly new Members to make their maiden speeches, and the adjournment would be the most appropriate opportunity to do that. But, in this particular instance, because of the rushed nature and the time constraints associated with this particular Sitting, the absence of, certainly, one of the new Members, it is felt that it might be more appropriate for us to take advantage of the Adjournment on the next full Sitting, where all Members would be able to not only

Senate Meeting
Held at the Grenada Trade Centre
On Friday, 25th May, 2018

Adjournment

have the time to be able to make their presentations, but all Members will be here to participate and to be able to give appreciation for the contributions of other Members.

So, Mr. President, it is proposed that we adjourn **sine die** at this point, giving the opportunity for Members to make their contributions at the next full Sitting.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, Senator Stiell has suggested that for the new Senators, this is a very important occasion, you are getting off the mark, and for those of you who have an interest in athletics, you know how important it is to get off the mark correctly, using the analogy of athletics, and, therefore, preparation is important.

However, if you feel that you are already prepared and you wish to go, it is totally a matter for you. But, I believe there is great wisdom in the consideration, as put forward by Senator Stiell, and, therefore, you may wish to heed his suggestions. But, I think, as I said, this is your maiden and maybe you want to be better prepared, knowing fully that you would have an opportunity to do so.

At today's Session, I did not have the opportunity to welcome you in the way in which I would have wanted, because of the nature of the convocation of this Session, as I had earlier said. So, I would have to take some guidance from you, in respect of this. If you will take the advice of Senator Stiell, then I will move to enact the Adjournment. **(Members agreed to the suggestion made).** Okay. I take it that Senator Stiell's advice is taken. Honourable Members, this House now stands adjourned **sine die**.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned sine die @ 4:10 p.m.

PREPARED BY

HANSARD REPORTERS

Mrs. Bernice Horsford-Bridgeman

Mrs. Raquel Morgan

Miss Sadio Bayne

EDITORS

Mr. Andrew Augustine (Clerk)

Ms. Daniele Blackman (Secretary to the Clerk)