



GRENADA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Second Session of the Tenth Parliament

OFFICIAL REPORT

SENATE

Thursday, 15th August, 2019

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Senate Meeting
Held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George
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Attendance

Senator the Honourable Chester Humphrey	- Mr. President (In the Chair)
Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell	- Minister for Education and Human Resource Development
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 with responsibility for 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 Christopher De Allie	- Member
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	- Member
Senator the Honourable Dunstan Campbell	- Member

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts	- Member (Excuse tendered)
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Prayers

Moment of Silence

Mr. President: Good morning, Members. Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Good morning, Members. Let us pray.

(Senate Prayer was said)

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Please join me in the Lord's Prayer.

(The Lord's Prayer was said)

Mr. President: Pray be seated. This Honourable Senate is now in Session.

(Sound of Gavel)

Mr. President: Honourable Members, a very sad event of recent vintage occurred, when, earlier this month, I think it was, our country lost a young, very energetic, very profound caregiver in the person of Dr. Winston Thomas. No death could have come so too soon; a Doctor of outstanding qualities, who have served the people and State of Grenada well; a Doctor of unparalleled distinction, both, in terms of his dedication and his whole philosophical approach to the practice of medicine; a Doctor who never set up private practice; a Doctor, who took the public minibus transport service to get to the Hospital in the furthest North Eastern part of the Island; a Doctor, who actually had no standard hours of work. He passed, most recently, and I want to use the opportunity to honour his name and his service and to convey to his family and friends, his neighbours and community of the Carenage, St. George, our most profound expressions of empathy and sympathy. May we respect his name and service by standing for a moment of silence.

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Moment of Silence
Announcements

(Moment of silence observed)

Mr. President: Thank you, Honourable Members. Pray be seated. Honourable Members, I wish to indicate that on the 19th of August, the International Community and the world, at large, would celebrate World Humanitarian Day, which is dedicated towards honouring humanitarian efforts, worldwide and propagating the idea of supporting people in crisis. On this day, I wish to dedicate and salute, on behalf of you, the Members of the House of Senate of Grenada, your conjoined recognition of the importance of this day.

World Humanitarian Day, 2019 is set to celebrate women humanitarians and the underlying conditions and contributions they have made in bettering our world and our humanity. The names are many, but, as we approach that day, I wish us to reflect on those who have contributed towards making the world a better place, whether that contribution was in the field of Politics and Social Sciences, whether it was in the field of Science, whether it is in the field of Law, whether it is in the field of Culture. And, rather than omit any particular name, I would recognise the contribution of all of our women folk, towards making humanity a better humanity and the world a better place.

In celebrating this Humanitarian Day and looking and empathising with areas of the world where there are crises, my mind is compelled to associate our solidarity, particularly with both the Peoples, two great Caribbean Peoples, the Peoples of Cuba and the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who, by virtue of political events, have had their Economies placed under severe restriction, thus imposing great difficulty on those populations, and, as you would know, on women, in particular, since in most cases, even where the man is the Head of the home, a woman carries a disproportionate part of the burden. And, therefore, any crisis in the Economy, tend to affect women more, as women, are, by-and-large, responsible for taking care of the day-to-day needs of families, which include children.

So, Honourable Members, I would ask you to reflect and to extend your own individual solidarity on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, 2019, and I thank you.

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Minutes

Announcements

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

Item 4 - Confirmation of Minutes.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Thursday, 9th May, 2019, be taken as read.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes taken as read.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Thursday 9th May, 2019, be confirmed.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes confirmed.

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

Item 6 - Announcements by Mr. President.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, I wish to announce that I have received a written indication from Senator the Honourable Glynis Roberts that due to ill health, she would be unable to attend today's Sitting of the Senate.

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Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 7 - Ministerial Statements.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Norland Cox.

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I, too, want to take this opportunity to join you in recognising World Humanitarian Day. Mr. President, the selfless work of persons, sometimes often do go unnoticed, and it is important that we continue to recognise their efforts. There are a number of people, in the world, who look forward to such gestures, and we must continue to recognise those efforts, Mr. President. I just want to place on record, my profound support and recognition of World Humanitarian Day.

Mr. President, I stand to give some reports and updates on the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts. But, before I do so, Mr. President, I, too want to take this opportunity to ask, through you, for a moment of silence be extended to a fellow Sportsman, somebody who has given selfless contribution towards the development of Sports in Grenada, who passed recently, that person in the name of Mr. Alister Clouden, Mr. President. And, so, through you, I ask if Members can just stand to observe a moment of silence for his contribution towards Sports in Grenada, Mr. President.

Mr. President: Yes, Senator. Your request has been forthwithly granted. Could we just stand?

(Moment of silence observed)

Mr. President: Senator Cox.

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much, Members.

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Mr. President: I would like, on behalf of the Senate, ask that a sympathy card be sent from the Senate, Mr. Clerk, to be sent to the family. Yes, Senator Cox.

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I want to first start, of course, by speaking about Spicemas 2019, Mr. President, our premier social event in Grenada.

Mr. President, I want to place on record on behalf of the Government of Grenada, and, of course, the Ministry of Culture, to extend congratulations to all our winners, who participated in Spicemas events over the Carnival Season. We want to congratulate them, ranging from our Junior Calypso Monarch to Senior Calypso Monarch; our Panorama champions, Junior and Senior; our Groovy Soca Monarch; our National Queen; persons, who would have won at the children's Carnival Frolic; Monday Night Mas; Road March winners; Our Fancy Mas; our traditional Mas Band winners. Mr. President, we want to place on record, our congratulations to them, in ensuring that we had a successful Spicemas, 2019. **(Applause)**

Mr. President, we also want to make special recognition of a number of key persons, as stakeholders, who would have played an essential role towards the success of Spicemas 2019. Our primary stakeholders, Mr. President; our Calypso Associations, Artistes, Mas Bands, Masqueraders, our Revellers, and most importantly, Mr. President, our Sponsors, who continue to invest significantly in Spicemas 2019.

Mr. President, I do hope that I do have the privilege, as sometime, going forward, to share those investments, in terms of numbers, what sponsors would have invested in Spicemas 2019, once we have those figures sorted out, Mr. President.

Mr. President, we want to also recognise our returning Nationals, and, of course, visitors, who chose Spicemas, as the place to visit during the Summer and to come and enjoy a wonderful, safe and clean Carnival in Grenada.

Mr. President, we want to also recognise the GTA, the Grenada Airport Authority, as well, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. President, I think, most importantly, the Royal Grenada Police Force, who has done a remarkable job throughout this season, Mr. President. **(Applause)** They continue to

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shine in every aspect. They shine on the stage and also on the road, Mr. President. They play a pivotal role in the execution of our Carnival product, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I want to also thank our Patrons, the general public. They come out and partake in what we offer, as a product called Spicemas. And, of course, we want to also recognise the Chairman and Directors of the Spicemas Corporation, the Management and staff of the Ministry of Culture and, of course, Mr. President, I think, sometimes the contributions that the Government of Grenada make towards these events, sometimes go unnoticed and sometimes unmentioned. But, the Government of Grenada continues to invest significantly, in the development of Culture and the sustenance of our Culture in Grenada, and I want to place on record, that support has remained steadfast throughout, in every aspect, be it financially, or otherwise, Mr. President. I just want to recognise that.

Mr. President, the success of Spicemas was hinged on a number of things, and I think it is quite fitting that we may raise some of those initiatives that the Ministry of Culture, together with its stakeholders would have embarked on, that carried us to that journey. And, a lot of it had to do, Mr. President, with dialogue, dialogue and consultation, listening to our Patrons, taking all those critical suggestions and constructive criticisms, to ensure that we continue to work on improving the Spicemas product. Mr. President, we took the opportunity to reconfigure a number of events, to ensure that they meet the needs and demands of persons, who are willing to partake in those events, Mr. President. I would think those initiatives paid out. One of the things that we wanted to highlight, Mr. President, we paid specific interest towards supporting the Calypso, which is the foundation of where we are, in terms of music in Grenada, and we thought it fitting to start with Calypso, Mr. President. And, we would have long heard the cry of persons indicating that we need to do more for Calypso, we need to recognise persons, who would have contributed significantly, in ensuring this art-form continues. And, so, Mr. President, we commenced that initiative by recognising, starting from this year, to recognise two (2) veteran Artistes, at our 'Manche Gras Show. We started this year, and we hope to keep this as a feature, going forward. That would remain, as a feature of the Dimanche Gras, going forward. At least, Mr. President, while I am there,

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as the Minister for Culture, probably I can speak after I leave. So, you know, those are policy decisions, Mr. President.

So, we believe that this initiative is valuable, based on the feedback that we are receiving from patrons and also other fellow artistes. They believe this is an excellent start, Mr. President. So, we would have recognised two (2) Artistes this year, and we want to make mention of them, the Praying Mantis and the Flying Turkey. They were here, and they were quite ecstatic, and they were well received, Mr. President, and they were awarded by the Ministry of Culture, and, of course, through Spicemas, and they would also receive some financial token, Mr. President, as part of recognition for their work and service to the development of Calypso in Grenada.

Mr. President, we would have also looked at a number of things, in terms of prize monies that are being paid. Those prize monies have been increased. We have also increased subventions to the Calypso tents, Mr. President, and so we continue to work. We have also done some significant work, in terms of capacity building, not only for within the Spicemas office, but also for the adjudication process. We know you can have a good product, and if you don't have a good adjudication process, it can throw everything down, and so we wanted to ensure that we focus a lot also on the adjudication process, to ensure that persons, when they come out and participate in the events that they would be judged and fairly, as much as possible. Mr. President, judging, there is some level of subjectivity that cannot be removed. But, the best that we can do is to put structures and processes in place to manage it, as much as possible, Mr. President. And, so we want to recognize those initiatives.

We also went a bit further, as well, Mr. President, and established a Radio Programme, which ran for approximately one month, Thursdays and Sundays, on three (3) radio stations, speaking about Calypso; that programme is called Brass Tax, and that programme was spearheaded by the Cultural Foundation and hosted by the CEO, Miss Shirma Wells, and we want to thank her for an excellent job that she would have done **(applause)** having various Calypsonians on, on various nights, and to speak about the importance of this initiative, and to promote the Calypso. We believe, Mr. President, this investment in the Art-form is one that will spark new and renewed

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interest, so that persons can continue to support the development of Calypsos in Grenada. So, Mr. President, those are some critical initiatives that we have sighted.

Mr. President, while we have seen some significant successes throughout this Carnival period, clearly, Mr. President, we do have some challenges, as well, and I think it is fair and important that we speak to those challenges. Some of them we have already sighted, and started working on them, and some of them we still have more dialogue to do, to see how we can address those, moving forward.

Mr. President, one of the things that we believe, is that we are on to something special... we are on to something special with Spicemas. Spicemas has immense potential to do a lot for Grenada. When you see Superstars, be it NBA, or otherwise, wanting to participate in our Carnival, actually coming and play in our Carnival, this speaks a lot and this is a significant opportunity for us, and we must do our best to ensure that we do everything to improve this product that we call Spicemas.

Mr. President, one of the challenges that we see and maybe I will speak to just two (2) issues, Mr. President...

(Time Bell Rings)

Mr. President: Just let me remind you.

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, as I indicated, there are some evident challenges in front of us, in terms of us ensuring that we improve on the product, and I will just probably speak to two (2), Mr. President, and the first one being, and there is a discussion around our lyrical content of our Calypso and Soca Artistes and also the other has to do with our Masqueraders and their outfit that they wear on the streets, in terms of parading, in particular with the Fancy Mas Band.

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Mr. President, these are very critical issues for us, and what we envisage is not for us, as a Ministry or Spicemas to just impose any regulations and penalties, or anything of the sort, but we believe that we must first start with some dialogue with all interesting parties to see if we can find a way to address this, because this, in itself, is a risk, in terms of our social aspect, Mr. President. As you know, we are a conservative people, to some extent and we have to manage what we do, because it is always said that the world is looking at us. And, I don't think that we have to have a smaller costume first to enjoy Carnival much better. I don't think so, Mr. President, because, in comparison, we see people play Monday night mas fully clothed and they do have a wonderful time. And, so, I think this is something that can be easily addressed, with dialogue, and I think that we can get this done, once persons understand the challenge that we have, and the objective that we are trying to achieve, by ensuring that we do this in a more manageable and a responsible way, Mr. President. That is what we seek to do.

Mr. President, I just want to indicate that, in terms of financial impact, the numbers are not in as yet, in terms of visitors, we don't have those numbers, as yet, because Carnival is just concluded. I will, once we have those numbers, update the House, once we get an opportunity to come back here to inform this Honourable House, on the numbers and the financial impact, once the Ministry of Finance does that. I think it is critical for us to understand the impact that this product has on our Economy and how it has helped to create economic activity for everyone in Grenada.

Mr. President, I just want to close on Carnival, by saying that we are very fortunate, as a people, when we look at what transpired over this Season. I went throughout and persons were simply just wanted to have a wonderful time, and I think that is critical. We had minimal, or no incident at all, and, Mr. President, I think that must be recorded as a success, not just for the Police, not for Spicemas, but for the entire Nation, Mr. President. I think we should commend the entire Nation for the way how they have conducted themselves over this season.

Mr. President, we just want to reiterate that we are willing to continue to work with our stakeholders, and we look forward to next year. There are some key initiatives,

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Mr. President, that we hope to work on. I will just mention two (2) in particular. We really want to do some more capacity building, work with our Artistes, in terms of Song Writing and developing and strengthening that capacity, so we can have better songs, better product. And, of course, Mr. President, as it has been a long cry, from most of our Artistes, in terms of Copyright protection and royalties. We are going to do some work in that area, going forward, for 2020, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this is all that I want to say on Spicemas for now. I just want to move on, Mr. President, to the Caribbean Festival of the Arts, CARIFESTA, which takes place in Trinidad, starting from Friday is the Opening Ceremony, to the 25th of August. Mr. President, of course, Grenada is participating in this important Cultural event, and we would have a contingency of one hundred and twenty (120) persons going down to Trinidad to display our culture, participating in the area of Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Literary Arts, Film, Theatre and Fashion. Mr. President, this is very important.

The Theme for this year's CARIFESTA, Mr. President, I think it is instructive that I mention it. The Theme for this year is 'Connecting, Sharing and Investing.' And, Mr. President, in terms of defining this Theme: 'Connecting' is connecting our People, Connecting our Artistes, our Cultural Practitioners; 'Sharing', the sharing of ideas, information and experiences among member States, and, Mr. President, 'Invest', we would continue to invest in the development of the sustainability of culture and creative industry in the Region. Mr. President, and so I think this is a very important Theme for us to pay attention to.

As you know, Mr. President, CARIFESTA is one of CARICOM's unifying commodity that is used just like West Indies Cricket. So, it is a very important initiative, hence the reason why we are participating in that event, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I want to now move on to Sports. As you know, we continue to break records. We continue to do things. I was speaking to somebody yesterday evening, Mr. President, a friend from Jamaica, a Grenadian, of course, living in Jamaica. She just got married and she said her Chef was representing or overseeing Jamaica's participation in a Cuisine Show Competition in Florida, and he was saying

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that your little Island is doing so well. So, Mr. President, everybody recognises our size, but they also recognise that we are doing well.

Mr. President: We are powerful.

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Yes. **(Applause)** And, so we want to, for the first time, they had Grenadian chocolate. Mr. President, we are doing excellent throughout the world, as Grenadians, and we must be proud of that. And, in Sports we continue to raise the bar.

Mr. President, before I even speak further, I think all this started with Kirani James, Mr. President. And, every time I speak to our young Athletes, they always mention that whatever success that I have is as a result of him making us believe that we can do it. And, Mr. President, I just want to say that we had the PANAM Games over the Carnival. Most persons would have been revelling, not following our Athletes, who were all the way in Peru, running and representing Grenada, and they, too, were doing very well. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that Anderson Peters, in Javelin, who broke the PANAM Games record with a throw of 87.31 meters, Mr. President, **(applause)**. This is outstanding, Mr. President. Mr. President, we also want to recognize Lyndon Victor, who got Silver in the Decathlon. **(Applause)** His brother, Kurt was also performing. He had to pull out, because of injury, and so, in communicating with them, we sent our regards to ensure that he heals quickly. As you know, next year, 2020, in Japan, we have the Olympics taking place, Mr. President. So this is good news for us. We knew that they were going to Medal and we just kept our fingers crossed and we got a Gold and a Silver, Mr. President.

But, I think mention must be made of Markim Felix, who placed 5th in the Javelin Event, and there were a number of persons, Bralon who ran and also Josh who throw. They didn't get the result that they wanted, but we were behind them, certainly, Mr. President, and we commend all the other Athletes, who would have done well, in terms of representing Grenada. **(Applause)**

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Mr. President, I want to make mention of the various persons, who actually do the work on the ground, the Coaches, the various Clubs, the persons who we do not hear about, who wake up every morning and go every evening and go out with those Athletes and train and talk to them, encourage them and motivate them. We never hear about these persons, Mr. President. But, they are the ones, who are the true success of those Athletes, and we must recognise their efforts before we recognise, even ours, as a Ministry, Mr. President, and even before we recognise the Olympic Committee, and, of course, the Athletics Association, who put forward significant resources for those persons to move on. But, those little initiatives on the ground, the persons, who are there with you, every minute of the day, keep pushing you on, I think, Mr. President, we must continue to recognise those persons for their efforts, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I just want to say that sometimes we, as a Nation, we forget very easy, and sometimes, we, as Government have a responsibility to remind persons that we have what it takes to represent and to be successful in almost any Sector, in any Region, in anything that is taking place in this world. And, we just want to continue to let our young Athletes know, to continue to believe that they can be successful, too, and we look forward to these Athletes, as we prepare for the Olympics in 2020.

Mr. President, I just received an invitation to come to Japan, which I had to decline, Mr. President, because, you know, we have Carnival here. So, you never know, sometime, if not, somebody will have to go to be there with our Athletes for 2020, to ensure that we do come out with a medal, Mr. President.

So, with these few words, Mr. President, I just want to thank this House for giving me the opportunity to give an update on the Ministry of Youth, Development, Sports, Culture and the Arts. Thank you, Mr. President. **(Applause)**

Mr. President: Senator Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I, too, would like to take this opportunity to recognise all our Members here today. I know Sister Roberts is not here, because she is not well, and I trust she

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would get a speedy recovery. I do hope she probably didn't do too much over the last few days that would have caused her to have aching feet; I don't know what happened. But, in any event, drink some soup.

Mr. President, I want to report on the Ministries, which I am given the charge of, and I want to start with, of course, Disaster Management, and to say that this year, so far, has been an extremely good year for us, as a Department, in as much as we have been able to secure funding, training and other opportunities, equipment and the likes for this country. And, as you know, in this day and age, when we are looking at disaster from a comprehensive standpoint, rather than what was historically the reaction to the hurricanes. But, as you know we are exposed to so many hazards out there, as a Department we are working with all those stakeholders to ensure that we are adequately prepared, in the event of having to respond, we can respond, adequately.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Government of Canada, through the Canada/Caribbean Disaster Risks Management Fund, for sponsoring the upgrade of some fourteen (14) Emergency Shelters, to facilitate persons **(applause)** with disability and the Senior citizens.

Last July, the 9th, 10th and 11th, we had the closing of two (2) of those Shelters; one, the Dover Government School in Carriacou and the St. John's Christian Secondary School. We highlighted both Shelters, because the upgrade saw the installation of Ramps, Bathroom facilities that could accommodate persons with disability, and, as I have said before Senior Citizens. But, it spoke to a very critical issue, Mr. President, the need that we have seen for collaboration, be it with the Private Sector, be it with NGOs, towards ensuring that we put systems in place that would meet the needs of our vulnerable population. And, I want to single out here the Council for the Disabled, who provided and outfitted those Facilities with the necessary showers, the necessary toilet seats and all those implements that would make life more comfortable and accommodating for persons with disability, who would have to utilise those facilities. So, I want to say a special thank you to Sister Gabriel and her team. The Canadian Government would have, at least, provided some one hundred thousand Canadian dollars for this upgrade.

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We also, Mr. President, in this period saw Carriacou and Petite Martinique being approved for the Tsunami ready Certification Project. As you know, last year, we had St. Patrick being certified as Tsunami ready, and we had to do the necessary consultation, provide the inundation maps, the escape routes, just name it, all those information that would aide persons in the event of a Tsunami to get out of the danger zone. So, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, they have been approved and on the 30th and 31st of July, we had the consultation on Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where we had persons from the Pacific Tsunami Early Warning Centre being present to lead the consultation and to get the stakeholders' buy-in, the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, to contribute towards this very important project.

As you know, Carriacou and Petite Martinique are pretty close to Kick 'Em Jenny, and Kick 'Em Jenny, as you know, ever so often she kind of indicates to us that she is alive; that is the possible threat that we have right outside of your shores. So the need to train our people and to have them with the necessary information, as to how they can save themselves and save their property, through this project, is very commendable. We have the deadline to have the Certification Process completed, it is the end of September, and I must say, Mr. President, we are well advanced in our consultation and work being done. We have a local GIS Expert, a Grenadian, that is, who is preparing the inundation maps, and we are well advanced in that regard, and I do believe, come the 30th of September, we will have a very, very outstanding presentation of Carriacou and Petite Martinique being certified as Tsunami ready. **(Applause)**

Also, Mr. President, I want to highlight that only recently we had on the 31st July and 1st August, a National Stakeholders Consultation on Mainland, and that consultation brought around the Table just over sixty (60) Stakeholders, working with the Department, speaking to their preparation for this Hurricane Season. And, it was, indeed an exciting moment for us, because what we have seen this year, compared to the other years, our Stakeholders have taken on board, the need to have their disaster plans in place, have the plan being tested. And, they have asked NaDMA for support, to ensure that they prepared the plans. But, they were around the table speaking with a

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level of authority and I would say pride that they have done the work, so in the event of a hurricane, a storm, they will be able to respond and respond adequately.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank the United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USOFDA) for sponsoring this event, and they were on hand to witness the Stakeholder Consultation. And, from their comments, they were, indeed, indeed, very pleased and impressed with the work that is going on in Grenada.

I also want to move to a number of training that we have been able to secure. So, we had training for our District Disaster Committees in First Aid and Communication; as you know they are two (2) critical implements in being able to facilitate adequate response and our teams... and as you know, we have some seventeen (17) Disaster District Teams around the country. Not all of them would have been involved in the training, but it is a start and a start in the right direction. We also had training for lead Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, Statistics and Social Development in IDA, Initial Damage Assessment. That training is critical, as it relates to being able to collate information that would speak to the level of destruction or disaster that we were faced with, and those initial information will be the catalyst towards securing funding and assistance from the International Community. So, it is a critical bit of training, and I must, indeed, say a special thank you to the DANOP Team for being there and to pushing this thing forward.

I want to move on to Legal Affairs, Mr. President. We have made a promise to the Legal Fraternity, as it relates to improvement in the Homes for the Court System, and I know quite a lot have been said out there, and some of it is true, because we do not have all the facilities to sit our Courts. But, we made a promise and we committed towards ensuring that the CLICO building, which we have secured, will be ready for the beginning of the new Law Term.

Mr. President, happy am I to announce that yesterday I had a tour of the building. I had discussions with the Contractor, who is on site, they have full deployment on the two (2) floors, the second and third floors. Both floors have been stripped. As a matter of fact, the second floor is far advanced, in terms of they have started doing the construction of the office spaces and so forth, and they gave this commitment to the

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country, that it would be ready by the middle of September, which is the beginning of the Law Term. And, I look forward, as I said to them, I would be there, working along, because we want to make sure we capture the information and send it out to the Nation, that when we promise, we want to deliver on those promises, and God forbids something should happen that may delay. But, as for now, they're on track, and I want to take this opportunity to commend the Minister for Legal Affairs, who has been spearheading this work, and, of course, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, to make it happen.

Also, Mr. President, I want to move to the Ministry of Works, and to say the long awaited St. Patrick Road Rehabilitation Project has commenced. It is, probably, about eight (8) years behind schedule, when it should have first come on, but not happening before is a blessing in disguise for, not only the people of St. Patrick, but the entire country, because when the first scope of work was done and listening to the Project Manager, as he said, the first scope of work was done and it was only to resurface the roads. When this Government came into Office and looked at the scope of work and looked at the size of some of the roads and the bridges, as you know, when it rains heavily and you are inside of St. Patrick, you are locked in, because the four (4) Bridges that would take you out from St. Patrick into St. Andrew, or into St. Mark, often, the waters overflow the Bridges, so you are locked in.

This Road Rehabilitation would ensure that over four (4) Bridges will be upgraded, lifted and widened, so it would become two-lane traffic, and not just resurfacing, but widening the road to accommodate two-lane traffic in areas where it is now one lane. In terms of flood mitigation processes, box drains will be erected and widened, because every project that will be undertaken at this point, Mr. President, there is what we consider a resilient facility, to ensure that projects will be able to withstand the impact of Climate Change. As you realise we have heavy rains today, so floods are a common thing. If we were told maintain the 1950 road structure and drain patterns, we are spinning top in mud. It would not be a wise use of the twenty-four million US dollars (\$24 m) that will be invested in this project.

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So, I am happy to say that the project has started and given that quite a lot would be done in the north of the country, in terms of tourism development and so forth, it is good sense to ensure that the roads are developed to fit the development in Tourism. Of course, quite a lot of work is being done in the Shambeau areas and so forth, so Agriculture is another big thing for this Government; so the widening and upgrading of the road will benefit farmers. So, at this point, it is a win-win for everybody, and I want to, again, commend the Minister for Infrastructure Development and his team for painstakingly, taking us through the period and to ensure that we have a project that will be able to serve the country and serve it well.

Mr. President, I want to move on to the Ministry of Health, but before I go to the Ministry of Health, let me just conclude on this. I want to look at the School Uniform and Voucher Programme. As you know every year, Mr. President, the Government, through its Social Programmes supply to vulnerable families school uniforms, to ensure that children will be able to go to school. In addition to the school uniforms, we also have the Free Books Programme, and this year, for the School Uniform Programme, one million dollars (\$1 m) has been budgeted. And, looking at the trend, over the years, it will be spent. In the last seven (7) years of the Programme, we have spent just over seven million dollars (\$7 m), and over thirty-three thousand (33,000) families benefitted from this very important Programme. **(Applause)**

What we are very careful about, Mr. President, and we feel proud, as a Ministry in being there, serving our vulnerable population and some of our beneficiaries from SEED, who are part of the Programme. Well, all the SEED beneficiaries are part of the Programme, and to see that some of these beneficiaries top the class, graduate with Honours, it is a great investment in moving families away from the scourge of poverty. And, I am extremely happy about this, because, when we look at the results in our CPEA exams in the last two (2) years, you would realise that the Government schools are holding their own, and doing extremely well. And, I think these programmes have contributed to the rise in those results that we are seeing in the Primary Schools in the CPEA Exams. Well, CSEC came out yesterday, and again, I have seen some extremely good results. I think the Leader of Government's Business should be

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speaking more about that, but extremely good results, and I want to bow to Carriacou. I say no more.

I should say also, Mr. President, as it relates to the School Books Programme, some \$2.5 m have been invested this year in the upgrade of books. But, most importantly, it is the first time in the life of the Programme that books were delivered to the schools before the end of July, extremely important. It says something, that quite a lot of planning would have gone into this process, to ensure that the needs of the schools were catered for and considered; the needs of the students were catered for and considered, and early ordering of those books were made, so that families would have those books on time, so the necessary decisions that they have to make to buy those additional books that are not a part of the programme, they would be able to do that well, and I really want to commend the Minister for Education and her team for a job well done.

Mr. President, I want to move on to the Ministry of Health, and to say that, as a Ministry, the Ministry of Health continues to stand in the gap and to providing the health service for the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, to ensure that the needs of our people are met.

But, before I go into this, I want to state on this unfortunate incident, on Carnival Tuesday night, where our Minister for Health had an accident. And, as he would have said, it looked worse than it actually was. He came out from it unscathed, I should say, went to the General Hospital to be treated and was discharged, and I want to say of the vote of confidence that the Minister would have demonstrated of his team at the Hospital, going to the General Hospital to ensure that he had been taken care of. And, yes, the doctor would have discharged him and moved on.

I want to move into an area, Mr. President, because I remember those days of the Leslie Seon investigative journalism; of the Paul Roberts investigative journalism. And, in modern day times, we have Sewlyn Noel and Linda Straker. They investigate before they broadcast any news, and I want to commend them. This is what we need to do.

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I found it strange that today mainstream media would just pull a story from Facebook and broadcast false information, fake news. It is unfortunate, but I want to call, as Minister for Information, I want to call on our Media Practitioners, our Journalists, let us go back to the days of investigating stories before we disseminate them. It is really unfortunate. And, what is so disturbing, to get a story from a person, who would have done it before, post fake news on Facebook, and we know it is wrong, but, again, probably it gets a few likes, or whatever, but it is bad news, fake news, and to be caught with those fake news, it is really unfortunate.

(Time Bell Rings)

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you for the warning that ten (10) minutes are gone.

(Inaudible comments by the President)

(Laughter)

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Okay. Let me just close off, Mr. President. No, you should have given me the ten (10) minutes break. So, I want to take this moment also just to advise that the Government of Grenada would have received confirmation from the Maria Holder Memorial Foundation of the donation of a 128 Slice CT Scanner. Mr. President, what this is saying to us, really and truly, is that; but let me just tell you, shortly, what a 128 Slice CT Scanner does. It says, it offers faster, safer, more accurate diagnosis of cases. That's what the 128 Slice CT Scanner does. And, what is so beautiful about this, Grenada is most advanced in the OECS Region, with this Scanner that has been donated to us.

Also, just to close to say that we also have been able to procure an Incinerator, with funding from the Indian Government, and it will be installed at the General Hospital, to take care of medical waste. We also received donation from the Republic Bank of a

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Mobile Cancer Screening Unit, and this is extremely important for us, at this point in time.

Mr. President, I know I would have to close, and I would close by saying that...

Mr. President: Senator, you are putting me in a difficult spot here, because I am...

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Okay. I close by saying thank you very much.

Mr. President: Much of what is being said now, you can easily say so on the Adjournment.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much.

Mr. President: Much of what you said before could have been said on the Adjournment and you just focus on your Ministerial Statements. But, you are putting me in a difficult spot, because once I accommodate you, then I am compelled by action to accommodate everybody else.

Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie. And, may I most profusely apologise Senator De Allie, for at the Opening, not welcoming you back into the Chamber. As Senators would have known, you had a brief break, as a result of some personal matters, and we have been in touch and I see that you are up, alive, kicking and well. And, I literally hope 'kicking'; Football or, of course, the Badminton chuttle that we used to engage in before. But, sorry, it was an oversight, really, and I take the opportunity to welcome you back. So, you now have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for the sentiments. Yes, as a matter of fact, I don't know about the kicking part, as you say, but we will get to that.

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Mr. President, through you, I have a question for Senator Garraway on the Legal Affairs issues on his presentation. And, just to find out, in the event of; first of all let me congratulate the Government and the Ministry for working assiduously to getting premises for the Legal Community and the Courts, to get our Legal issues dealt with, as quickly and as expeditiously as possible. But, my question is, what is happening to the Cable and Wireless building where the Courts were previously, and we had to leave, because of some issue, and was that issue ever identified, as to the cause and as a result why we had to leave.

And, in a related issue, as it relates to how the Courts are functioning and its ability to function, is there any update on what is happening with the digitising of our records at the Registry and the improvement of services, as the Registry? Is the Government also putting emphasis on these areas, because, as I understand it, it is critical, as well as getting physical facilities for the Legal System to function, appropriately and efficiently. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, before he answers, could I also ask him another question, as I am on the floor, and this one is on the Ministerial Health, or should I separate it?

Mr. President: This one is actually the third, but I don't know if he had captured all of the questions that you are putting at one time.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: So, I will come back again, with your leave, Mr. President.

Mr. President: So, I think, in fairness, let him answer first and then you can always pose another question, you won't lose the opportunity. Thank you. Senator Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much, Mr. President. As it relates to the Cable and Wireless building, as we all are aware, there was an Air

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Quality Control issue, and as a result we had to vacate the building, because the Legal Fraternity said it was not conducive for them to practise.

Quite a lot of tests were done, and yes, there were some elevated level of the threat, and as a result we have since moved. As it relates to fixing this problem, we had to work with the owner of the Facility, and that's where the delay is, if I might put it this way. But, that's as much as I can say, as it relates to the Cable and Wireless building.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: And, the digitising of records at the Registry.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: I don't have information on this, at this point. I know that quite a lot has been said, as it relates to working towards digitising the records, because, of course, the condition that they are in. I know we have been able to work with someone outside of Grenada, as it relates to building capacity in the country, re Court matters and so on, but I cannot give more information on this. We can probably look to have it and present it at the next available Sitting.

Mr. President: Senator De Allie, could I advise that you submit a question along those lines, because, in many respects, the Registry is almost at the heart of the Judicial issues, and I happen to know of the gravity of this situation, which needs immediate intervention. So, maybe, if you can put a question, subsequent to this, as a matter of urgency, so that some attention could be given. As well, Senators can write, you know. Senators can write individual Ministers, seeking explanation on things, quite apart from using the Chamber. Individual Organisations can write, asking for Ministerial action, or responses to the status of issues. All of this is part of the governance. One does not necessarily have to wait until the Senate convenes. I have some very close friends in the Legal Fraternity and they have even raised concerns with me, about the state of affairs there, because it affects all of us.

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A lot of commercial and other transactions, of a Legal nature, depends a lot, on a functioning Registry service, so it is an important consideration. You have surrendered the floor, or do you still have any follow-up questions?

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Thank you, Mr. President. I, most certainly, would consider doing a question and submitting. Again, to Senator Garraway on the health issues, Ministry of Health and the procuring of a 128 Slice CT Scanner, which, I think is an excellent addition to the services that we can offer, in terms of diagnosis. But, you know, Mr. President, my burning question to the Honourable Senator on the 'Other Side' is, we get all these sophisticated equipment and then we have no Maintenance Programme in place to ensure that they continue to do what they are supposed to do. So, my question to you, through the President is, are we, at the same time, implementing a Maintenance Programme for the piece of equipment, and not only the maintenance, but having the adequately trained personnel, locally, that can service the equipment.

Mr. President: Senator Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Mr. President, thanks, and this is a very fair question, because I think it will help us to ensure that when we receive donations, the only thing we can do, probably, to say a special thank you, is to ensure that we maintain those things, and that is part of the whole regiment at the General Hospital, the training and updating of our Service Providers, to ensure that they are able to treat with those equipment, and at the same to ensure that the life of it is extended. So, yes, maintenance is a critical component of what we do, at this point in time, in the General Hospital.

Mr. President: Senator André Lewis.

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Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you, Mr. President. And, just a follow-up question to Senator Garraway. I know that the concern has been expressed about the air quality in the former Cable and Wireless building and its potential impact on the Legal Practitioners. Is there any concern about the air quality on the outside and its impact and potential impact on the surrounding inhabitants on the Carenage? That could also be of extreme importance for all of us.

Mr. President: Senator Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Mr. President, another fair question. From my knowledge of the investigation that was done on the building, the air quality control was confined to one specific room, just one room, not outside of the room, just in that particular room, so on the outside of the building is safe.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell, you have the floor.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I wish to update...

(Inaudible comments by the President)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: I will do my very best to confine myself to the time available, Mr. President. Mr. President, I wish to give an update to this Honourable House on some of the major projects that are taking place, both within the Ministry of Climate Resilience, together with the Ministry of Finance, with some major Climate related projects, and I will speak to the CSEC results, which have just been released.

And, so, Mr. President, the Green Climate Fund funded project, together with the German Government, what is known as the G-Crews Project, this is a water resilience project, valued at forty-five million US dollars (US\$45 m), one hundred and twenty million EC dollars (EC\$125 m), a significant investment in our Water Sector, one which

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will build resilience in that Water Sector, addressing the Climate Change challenges that we have in that Sector, either through increased drought periods, dry periods, or those very short, intense rain downpours, which cause extreme flooding, etcetera. But, how, within the Water Sector, we can control more of that water capture, more of it, when it falls, to be able to store it, as it falls, and then to distribute it around the country, where it is needed most, whether it is areas that are currently underserved, with regard to water, and for our Agricultural Sector, or down in the South, especially within the Tourism Belt, which is prone to water shortages and the need for us to increase service there. So, a very, very innovative project. Also, the burying of waterlines, when they are above the surface, they are highly vulnerable, whether it is to hurricanes, whether it is to damage; so, again, building that resilience by burying the main waterlines.

Plus, Water Conservation Programmes, it's not just about capturing, storing, distributing more water, that, in itself is not enough. We have to be far more conscious of how we use water, water wastage and efficiency within that Sector. So, conserving more means that there is more available for essential use.

Also, what is significant about this project, it is heavily infrastructurally based. A lot of work would take place, especially in our rural communities. This will create significant job opportunities for our men and our women. And, as an update, as to where we are, this project has taken a number of years to negotiate and get to this stage. The project was approved in 2018, by the GCF Board. That period, through then, till now has been contractual negotiations between the German Development Agency (GIZ), who are going to be implementing entity for this project and the GCF. Those contractual arrangements have been agreed. Now, what has been taking place are the contractual arrangements between the Government of Grenada and GIZ. And, just recently, they have reached agreement, in principle. The Lawyers are still talking to finalise that agreement, but the Implementation Team from Germany, for the GIZ Team should be arriving in Grenada by the end of this month, and we are looking to formally launch this signature project for our Water Sector, at the end of September. So, we are making significant progress on this very important project.

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Another GCF funded project, this is just for prefeasibility work, is the Climate Smart, Climate Resilient Cities Project. This is to establish our Town of St. George's, as the first Climate Smart, Climate Resilient City, within the Region. As I said, funding for the prefeasibility is by the GCF, and the technical partner in this, is New York University, who are developing a number of concept notes, that would be submitted to the GCF for project preparation, which would then lead on to funding requests.

And, some of the areas that are covered, very, very significant will address sea level rise, whether that is on the Carenage, highly vulnerable. The estimates are that within the next thirty (30) years, the Carenage could be under water; Grand Anse, again, highly vulnerable and then we have the Grenville area, outside of the Town, but it was viewed as such a vulnerable area, such a high priority area, we have brought that into the project. So looking at interventions that will address sea level rise and water inundation in those three (3) areas; also looking at Sewerage Waste Water Management and potential solutions for that.

The Southern Corridor, between the Town of St. George and the Airport, that main artery here in the South, there are significant congestion issues. So, it is looking at, working with New York University, looking at the creation of alternative routes; widening roads and then reinforcing those roads that are vulnerable to climate impacts. And, by addressing this congestion issue, will reduce Green House Gas admissions, which are key causes of Climate Change.

Other areas include Urban Densification, how the Town of St. George is expanding, looking at vulnerable communities, vulnerable to climate impacts, and how those vulnerabilities can be addressed; looking at how the Town of St. George is sprawling, is moving, growing towards the East to St. David and how we can better plan, better manage that urban growth.

Maurice Bishop International Airport, at sea level, the runway is highly vulnerable. There are areas that are already being attacked by coastal erosion, so it is looking at solutions to address that. I already mentioned Grenville, the main road, that coastal road, what can be done there. And, then a range of projects, an omnibus of projects, which will be looking at building resilience within our rural communities; how

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we can make them more resilient to the negative impacts of Climate Change. As I said, this project is prefeasibility, a lot of theory, right now. The concepts are being developed, a value in the region of three hundred to five hundred million US dollars (US\$300 m to US\$500 m); as I said highly ambitious. But, this isn't just about the theory and submitting proposals that will go nowhere. We are already working with the GCF and with New York University to pull out projects where we can actually achieve quick wins; and one such project we have pulled out of this is the Green House Gas Emission Project. It is a Project that we are about to submit for direct funding, to the value of twenty-five million US dollars (US\$25 m) to the GCF, we call it the G-Leap. We have the G-Crews, now we have the G-Leap Project, which is an Energy Efficiency Project, which will ensure that all Government buildings are carbon neutral, and will all be installed, if the proposal is accepted with solar panels, so will all be self-generating; and then Energy Efficiency Programmes within Government buildings.

Our Street Lights, a significant consumer of electricity; so converting the Energy, inefficient sodium light bulbs to energy efficient LED light bulbs across the country, significant savings to the Government electricity bill. It is money savings, which could be used for more productive things.

Also, the installation in those areas that are currently underserved by street lighting, the installation of solar driven standalone lights; and there also would be a facility for the Private Sector. The Private Sector can access for energy efficiency solutions within their businesses; so, again, a very, very innovative project. We are working with the Caribbean Development Bank and UN Environments in the development of this proposal, and it will be submitted shortly, to the GCF. Decisions aren't going to be made overnight, the discussions will take time, but this is the field, this is the environment that we are working with.

Two (2) very important international meetings that are coming up, of which Grenada is playing a very significant role. The first is the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit, which will be held in New York on the 23rd of September. This is a global call for action; greater climate action; greater call for the necessary financial resources for countries such as Grenada, those developing Nations

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that are most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, to provide additional support...

(Time Bell Rings)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. To provide support and the financial resources to do the things we need to do; but also calling upon the developed countries, the major polluters, who are at the forefront of the cause of Climate Change, through Green House Gas Emissions. So, within this Summit, Grenada, together with Small Island Developing States are pulling together what we are calling a SIDS package, through the Association of Small Island States.

The Secretary-General has called on countries to put forward innovative, ambitious, bold and transformative projects. And, it was decided, at a meeting a few weeks ago in Abu Dhabi, which I attended; that it was very clear that however innovative our Island projects are, they would get lost in that global noise. So, it was decided that Islands like Grenada, the Maldives, Jamaica, Palau, Belize, driving this to combine our proposals, our solutions, as the SIDS package, some forty (40) plus Islands, so we can show significant scales, significant ambition, in terms of the action that we wish to take. And, this approach has the full support of the Secretary-General, and we anticipate that on the 23rd of September, Grenada, together with other Small Island Developing States, will have an opportunity to have our voices heard on the international stage. And, this event leads into the COP25 in Chile, at the end of the year, which is the major Climate negotiations, and will set the bar, in terms of the level of ambition, all countries, globally, should be working toward.

In addition, on the 24th of September, piggybacking off the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit is a launch by the Global Commission on Adaptation. This is a Commission that is led by Bill Gates, Ban Ki-moon, the former Secretary-General of the UN and Kristalina Georgieva, who is the current CEO of the World Bank, together with nineteen (19) Commissioners in specific countries around the world, of which Grenada, our Prime Minister is represented. And, what they will be launching on the 24th of

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September is a year of action. It is focused on adaptation. There are two (2) elements, mitigation, which is most appropriate for those developing countries, as high polluters and by adaptation for us, low polluters, but those who are vulnerable to Climate Change, those of who have to adapt to the new normal of Climate Change. So, this is, again, focused on increased global action and financial and technical support again for countries such as Grenada in the battle against Climate Change. And, as I said, this is another example of the Prime Minister's selection to be one of these handful of Global Commissioners, is a credit to our Prime Minister's leadership and Grenada's leadership in the area of Climate Change and Climate Action.

Last month, Mr. President, there was a launch of a World Bank Cliff funded COAST Project, that is the Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility (COAST). This is a project that both Grenada and St. Lucia are the first to pilot, and this is a Fisheries Sector Parametric Insurance Programme. So, this is insuring our fisherfolk, our fishing installations, fishing vessels, equipment against extreme weather conditions including hurricanes. So, this is providing security for our Fishing Sector. This is a grant supported project, just for the first year and provides us with coverage from July, 2019 through to June of 2020. So, we would be working with our stakeholders within the Fishing Sector, to work out a way of funding and supporting this programme, so that it is sustainable and long term, moving forward.

Quickly moving on to plastics and styrofoam; we have passed Legislations in this very House on the Biodegradable Waste Control Act. The ban on styrofoam has been successfully implemented, both, in terms of the importation and sale and distribution of styrofoam, that is specific styrofoam products; they are now out of our system.

The ban on plastic bags, the importation ban came into effect in February of this year. The sale of nonbiodegradable carrier bags to retailers would come into effect from the 1st of December, 2019, and then the complete elimination of non-biodegradable plastic bags from the 1st of February, 2020.

So, we are working with retailers and with importers for that smooth transition, when they are no more of what we have become accustomed to, these bags that pollute

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our streets, our communities, our waterways, and ensuring that the complete elimination of those two (2) sustainable alternatives would be as smooth as possible.

The third area is other single use items; so that's cutlery, food containers, plates, glasses, straws, that was supposed to come into effect on the 1st February of this year, but there were some concerns about the economic impact that would have on our Food Vendors Providers. So, we are currently working with a Consultant from the World Bank, who is doing an economic analysis, to see how that would transition, what the best timing of the banning of those single use plastics, and the introduction of the more expendable alternatives will have a minimal economic impact and the timing of that. So, we are working with the World Bank Consultants to do that.

So, Mr. President, I will now quickly move on to the Ministry of Education and speak to the recently published CSEC results. I got to say, Mr. President, I got, actually, a little emotional this morning, because, as this Session started, my son who sat his exams just got his results and he WhatsApp me his results, and, as a father, it makes me very, very proud, very, very proud of the results that he achieved, far, far beyond expectations. **(Applause)** And, as my son was texting me, he was saying he was in tears with his mother, and I am a little choked. So, he has enabled himself to move on and do the things that he wants to do. And, that is a similar story for many parents, and it is important to give credit to the students, but also the teachers. We cannot forget our teachers and the tireless work **(applause)** that they provide, in terms of educating our kids. And, then, of course, the parents, who support their kids, late at nights, as they go through this process. And, as said, speaking, again, as a parent, as a father, knowing the anguish our children go through and being able to share that with them.

So, in terms of the results, Mr. President, there were eleven thousand, nine hundred and thirty-five (11,935) entries this year, of which one thousand, five hundred and sixty-four (1,564) achieved Grade One; three thousand, one hundred and sixty-nine (3,169) Grade Two; three thousand, six hundred and sixty-one (3,661) Grade Three; two thousand, one hundred and one (2,101) Grade Five; seven hundred and thirty-eight (738) Grade Four; and six hundred and seventy-five (675) ungraded. The overall pass

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rate, Mr. President, was up, 5% on last year's results. **(Applause)** So, an average pass rate of 74.5% for this year, and, again, that is a credit to our teachers and our students.

Performance in Maths, which is always a challenging area, remains stuck, similar levels to previous years of 38.6%. And, I know within the Ministry of Education, significant effort is being placed on their action plan for Literacy and Numeracy. We know, just like the rest of the Caribbean, where our results in Literacy and Numeracy isn't at the level that it needs to be. But, at least, we have stopped the slide and work continues there. The area of the Sciences, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, we saw a marginal increase on results from previous years. So, we are seeing many, many bright points in the results that we are seeing in our schools. And, again, I wish to congratulate Carriacou, whose top performer, Teja Patrice of Hillsborough Secondary, **(applause)** who attained fifteen (15) passes, fourteen (14) at Grade One, and one (1) at Grade Two, a significant achieve.

And, I also want to single out Hillsborough Secondary, because my niece, who is like a daughter to me, she went to school there, and she attained, I believe, is twelve Grade Ones when she went there. Her academic attainment enabled her to go on to complete her schooling in the UK. She is now at University, holding her own, with other international students, and I think this is a credit, not just to our Education System, but, I would like to single out Carriacou. Carriacou is constantly a top performer and Hillsborough Secondary, a consistent top performer. **(Applause)**

(Time Bell Rings)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: A few more seconds, Mr. President, just to finish this point. I think I we should be proud of ourselves here, in our Tri-Island State, and the abilities, the skills that we are imparting on our young men and women. And, Senator Cox mentioned it from the Sporting area. Grenadians can hold their own wherever we chose to walk in this world, **(applause)** and I think it is something we should all be proud of. And, I believe we are building a solid foundation with our young

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men and women that I think would serve our Nation for generations to come. I thank you, Mr. President. **(Applause)**

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Christopher De Allie.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Thank you, Mr. President. And, I have a couple questions for the Leader of Government's Business, in particular under his Ministry of Climate Change and Resilience. But, before I get there, I also want to offer you congratulations on the performance of your son, and we all know how trying it can be for the parents during those days of exams and preparation.

Under your Ministry of Climate Change and Resilience, my question, through you, Mr. President, is this; when we, take for example, the GCF Project and the approval that we got from GCF of these monies that we could get to use, it is now nine, almost ten months before we could see a penny, because of the red tape that has to be done and put in place, the Contract, the negotiation, the legal work and so on and so on and so on. But, Climate Change is not waiting for us, you know, Mr. President. When you look at all the international reports, our temperature rose again, the highest that it has ever been, since their recording, and the melting of the ice caps and so on and the constant sea rise, the scorching of our reefs, it is not waiting on us and the red tape. So, my question to the Leader of Government's Business, and I hear you talk about the meetings that we plan to attend as a SIDS, which is excellent and that is where we should go, as a group, so we could have a greater voice.

But, is there any consideration being given to reducing the red tape, to get monies available for the projects that we have identified for our countries, which are going to feel the impact more than anybody else? The infiltration of seawater into our normal waterways for agriculture, what is going to happen, as I said, Mr. President, we are not waiting. Temperature rise ain't waiting on anybody and what is happening and the rising of the seas and what we see happening, but we are waiting a long time for the money, to help us to mitigate. So, is there any consideration being given to reducing

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the red tape and the time for us to get access to these monies, so that we could prepare our countries and our people to deal with some of these effects?

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, Senator De Allie raises a very, very good point, and this is a cry that is heard, certainly, from Developing Countries, the most vulnerable, who, as you rightly said, we cannot wait. Sea Level Rise, Climate Change does not wait for Lawyers, for financiers. It is there on our doorstep. And, in all of our engagements, engagements, both at the National level, as Small Island States Representatives, it is a constant message we push with the International Institutions. They do hear us. They do recognise it. The arm within the GCF, for example, has recently introduced what they call a simplified Access Approval Process. It is simplified, but it is still complex. Everything is complex. It is all very data driven. It is evidence based. But, they recognise that they are too slow, and they are making moves. They are just not making those moves far enough. And, the significance of these two events, in September, the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and the Global Commission for Adaptation, all speak to the need for accelerated action.

There are international voices that are highly sympathetic, Mr. President, to our plight. All we can do is continue to apply pressure and take advantage of these foras that are presented to us, and make our voices heard, as loud, as possible, and that is precisely what we are doing. We are seeing some moves, but they are not fast enough.

Mr. President: Senator De Allie.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: On another question, on another note, the Senator spoke of the ban of single use plastic bags coming in December and later on in 2020, a complete ban.

My question is, is there any consideration being given for the cost of the reusable bags, because when we move to banning the single use, I was in another country,

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recently, where you went to the Supermarket, but you go with your reusable bag and you pack your stuff. But, the cost to the ordinary person of some of these bags, sometimes, are prohibitive, and I am wondering if there is any consideration being given to having these bags at a significantly reduced cost so that... some Supermarkets charge you five/ten dollars to buy one of these bags. The ordinary person may not be able to do that. And, as we move away from single use plastic bags at the Groceries and Supermarkets, in particular, is there consideration being given to selling these bags, probably at a dollar, two dollars, whatever, so that we can facilitate and get a buy in, more generally, for the use of the reusable bags versus the single use.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Again, another good question, Mr. President. From the Government's side, we have reduced the Import Duties on these reusable biodegradable items; so we are providing some level of incentive to ensure that the total cost of these alternatives are not fully passed on to the consumer.

A part of the work that we are doing with the World Bank, it is looking at some of the other single use plastics, but it is doing that economic analysis to understand those economic dynamics of it. So, we will be having some more quantifiable data, in terms of understanding what else can be done to ensure that the cost of these items, they are as cost effective as possible. But, what we have to remember, Mr. President, is unless Government were to subsidise this, and with our limited fiscal space, it would be very difficult for us to do this, but we are working very, very closely with the Importers. We are working hand-in-hand, a very close working relationship, understanding their economic dynamics, the costs that are involved, the selection of the most appropriate and the most cost effective products. There is acceptance that there is a cost uplift. There is no question about that. Products such as styrofoam, single use plastics, there is nothing cheaper in the world; you cannot compete on price for those products. So, those alternatives are more expensive. It is just ensuring that there is no profiteering or excessive profiteering from this, and those costs are being passed on, or as real as

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possible. But, this is not just Grenada. It is the way the world is going, as we move to more sustainable solutions.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Ron Redhead.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, let me just join and congratulate, as well, Senator Stiell, on his son's achievement. I think every parent, Mr. President, must feel proud around these moments, and the teachers, certainly, I want to join with them, as well as everybody else expressed. I think that is very important. So, I am going to be kind in my questions, as a result.

Now, Mr. President, the question to the Senator, in relation to his particular Ministry; the idea that within thirty (30) years, we would see a sea level rise of proportional levels, etcetera, adds this question now, what sort of community engagement is currently ongoing? What level of that is ongoing? And, also, Mr. President, he spoke on banning items. Now, the issue with the styrofoam has a lot to do with the environment, garbage, etcetera, that is true. But, Mr. President, when we look at what is contributing essentially, to the damage of the Ozone Layer and that sort of thing, the question of CFCs. I am not certain if he is aware of that. But, recently, in Carnival, a particular song was surfacing around the area, and while it had a different connotation, but the message out of that, in my view, should be linked towards the environment.

Air Fresheners, Mr. President, contribute, extensively, to damaging the environment and the Ozone Layer, as we use it. A lot of that was used during the Carnival period. While he did not speak, particularly, on that, but in light of his Ministry, I think, maybe, that is something also that should be considered to be regulated, if not banned, fully. Thank you.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

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Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, addressing the second question first. CFCs are now a lesser issue, in terms of Global Warming. It is Green House Gases, which are different to CFCs. The depletion of the Ozone Layer, which was a major issue a couple decades ago, there was a lot of focus on the hole in the Ozone Layer, that is how she starts to repair itself. There have been efforts, globally, to ban CFC products, so there are actually very few, very few CFC products still available. The Fisheries Division just underwent a major swap out. Some of the refrigerants that they used... so for commercial applications, there are products that are still CFC rich. And, there was a project to replace all of those gases in the refrigerants to ammonia, non CFC producing.

So, there has been a global effort to address CFC. But, the biggest issue is Green House Gas emissions, from carbon dioxide, from methane, from other gases that are generated from fossil fuels; that is the major problem. So, in terms of us focusing our attention on if it is a spray can, I am not even sure those spray cans still contain CFC, that isn't really a priority. The priority is in Green House Gas emissions.

Regarding the Carenage, there is significant community engagement. There was an event, two or three months ago, on the Carenage, highlighting the work that the Green Climate Fund, New York University/Government of Grenada is doing with regards to its Climate Smart Cities Initiative. And, I believe there were over fifteen hundred (1,500) attendees at that activity, reengaging their businesses, residents within the area. They are important stakeholders, having an important voice in the crafting of solutions and the vision that is being developed to protect the Carenage. But yes, community engagement, important, we recognise it and we are doing it.

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

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell.

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Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I beg to move that the following Papers are laid on the Table:

1. Reports of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of Spicemas Corporation for the year ended, 31st December, 2015;
2. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of Spicemas Corporation for the year ended, 31st December, 2016;
3. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Confiscated Assets Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2017;
4. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Grenada National Accreditation Board for the years ended 31st December, 2016 and 2017;
5. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Grenada, for the period 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018;
6. Fourth Annual Report on the Office of the Integrity Commission for the year ended, December, 2017;
7. Annual Report of the Fiscal Responsibility Oversight Committee (FROC) for the year ended, 30th April, 2019; and
8. Annual Report of the Grenada National Training Agency (GNTA) for the year ended December, 2018.

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Mr. President: Honourable Members, the question is that the following Papers and Reports from Select Committees be laid on the Table:

1. Reports of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of Spicemas Corporation for the year ended, 31st December, 2015;
2. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of Spicemas Corporation for the year ended, 31st December, 2016;
3. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Confiscated Assets Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2017;
4. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Grenada National Accreditation Board for the years ended 31st December, 2016 and 2017;
5. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada, on the Financial Statements of the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Grenada, for the period 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018;
6. Fourth Annual Report on the Office of the Integrity Commission for the year ended, December, 2017;
7. Annual Report of the Fiscal Responsibility Oversight Committee (FROC) for the year ended, 30th April, 2019;
8. Annual Report of the Grenada National Training Agency (GNTA) for the year ended December, 2018.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, it is so ordered that the Papers be laid.

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(Sound of Gavel)

Mr. President: Again, Honourable Members, and that is more so, again, for the 'Other Side'. Again, I raise the question of these Papers. Many Reports have been laid, and since my return to the Senate, which occurred in December, 2014, not a single question, from my recollection, has arisen from the 'Other Side', in respect to any of these Reports, and it is my subjective opinion that this is really very unfortunate.

The Constitution of our country lays out, and I am trying to find the Section, that Parliament has a responsibility of oversight. These are very important Reports and Papers, and I have been encouraging Senators to peruse them, and to raise pertinent matters, which may emerge from out of these Papers. I think, really, it is a significant shortcoming.

Senator De Allie can tell you that sometime past, Senator De Allie, you would recall that we spent quite a bit of time on these Papers, with the appropriate questions, and in some cases, a Motion. But, I think that our Democracy is being short-changed by the absence of a more proactive participation by Members on the 'Other Side'. These are just some remarks I would wish to make, because these Papers are an expression of the accountability that must come from the Executive and from Governance. It is us, now, to, as I said, examine them, and, as I said, so far, on this second sojourn, in the Parliament, not a single Question or Motion has come. I would say no more on this, but I will sit and wait and see, because these audits are important. They are important records, and the Law requires that they be laid before the House for a particular purpose.

The Government Side has fulfilled that purpose by the Minister submitting them to Parliament. It is now for the 'Other Side' to scrutinise these, raise questions where you think it may be appropriate, ask for further explanations, as the case might be. If we are going to have a healthy, democratic engagement, it is important that we participate in the process fully, because there is absolutely no stumbling blocks in the way. All of these documents are consistently laid on the Table, by the Leader of Government's Business; they pass them. So, a word to the Senate on this question.

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Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 9 - Petitions
Item 10 - Government Notices
Item 11 - Unofficial Notices
Item 12 - Questions
Item 13 - Personal Explanations
Item 14 - Motions

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell, Leader of Government's Business in the House.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name:

WHEREAS debate of the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the Second Session of the 10th Parliament, on Monday the 19th 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 put and agreed to.

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

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 15 - Bills.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to introduce for the first reading a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, 2019 Budget Loan Authorisation Bill, 2019.

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Ag. Clerk: An Act to authorise the Minister for Finance to borrow, from various sources, a total amount not exceeding one hundred and eighteen million, eight hundred thousand Eastern Caribbean Dollars (EC\$118,800,000.00) shortly entitled, 2019 Budget Loan Authorisation Act, 2019.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

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 put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. President: Senator Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. President, as this is a Money Bill, I could confirm that I have the Speaker's Seal of Approval to proceed.

Mr. President, this House is being asked to approve a Loan Authorisation to the value of one hundred and eighteen million, eight hundred thousand Eastern Caribbean Dollars (EC\$118,800,000.00).

Mr. President, this is a Loan Facility that has been provided to us through the World Bank's International Development Association also known as IDA. Before the Ministry of Finance can actually access these resources, this Bill must come to Parliament and be approved, as I said, before it can be drawn down and that is the process that we're following right now.

So, Mr. President, IDA resources are highly, highly concessional. Loans do not get any cheaper than this. The rates that are offered on this facility of one hundred and

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eighteen million dollars (\$118 m) equivalent to forty-four million US dollars (US\$44 m) are rates in the region of less than 1%, but between 5%, significant grace periods, so you don't have to pay anything back; periods of five (5) years and the like and payback periods between twenty (20) and forty (40) years. So, extremely, extremely soft loans. And, Grenada is one of a number of countries that are eligible for these resources. There are other countries, countries here in the Region such as Barbados and Antigua, who are not eligible for these resources, wish they could have access to these resources. So, it's basically part of Grenada's status. But, also the significant levels of IDA support that we are receiving, that we have received in the past, are, as a result of the good fiscal practices that Grenada has demonstrated going through the Structural Adjustment Programme, and then coming out of that Adjustment Programme and continuing to demonstrate strong fiscal responsibility. So, it's based on our performance, the level and the concessionary rates that are provided. There are specific programmes that these resources will be used to support and these are strategic initiatives, all that will assist in developing and growing our economy.

So, first of all, Mr. President, of that forty-five (45), I am speaking US dollars here, of the forty-four million US dollars (US\$44 m), three million dollars (\$3 m) is to support the CARCIP Programme, another World Bank Project. First of all, this three million dollars (\$3 m) is extra monies that the World Bank has provided us. So, this was outside the original negotiated envelope, but, again, based on Grenada's strong performance, based on its performance and some of the strategic projects, it's working on, the World Bank has provided us an additional three million dollars (\$3 m) for the CARCIP Programme.

The CARCIP Programme is a project involving Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia. This is providing broadband connectivity, both regionally and within Grenada. It's a fibre optic connectivity around the country, throughout the islands, which would provide that backbone support for E-Government services, E-Education, increasing our technological advancements and in support of services that are offered both at the Public and Private Sector. These additional three million dollars (\$3 m) would be used

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to plug a gap that was identified in the original CARCIP Programme, which involves connectivity between our schools.

One of these projects, Mr. President, is to facilitate E-Learning. So, you could have a class being run at one location, at one school that could be transmitted to every other school in the country. It could even be used for lessons from within the Region, or even internationally. This is first world stuff, Mr. President, that Grenada will be able to benefit from in the education of our children. So, this additional three million dollars (\$3 m) would enable us to purchase, acquire, necessary, essential equipment for our classrooms that would enable this capability. Twenty million dollars (\$20 m) is part of a Development Policy Credit.

Mr. President, Grenada had to perform, both at the fiscal level, there was certain developmental policy areas that the World Bank had incentivised us to follow, including, the first Blue Growth Development Policy Credit, which was linked to whether it was the banning of plastic, styrofoam; whether it is the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy and Legislation, which we will be presenting later on today.

Other areas that speak to our physical development, and by achieving all of those prior actions and the conditions associated have released twenty million US dollars (US\$20 m), which would be able to support other key programmes within Government.

Fifteen million US dollars (US\$15 m) for Digital Governance. This also ties in to the CARCIP Programme, and this is about digitising essential Government Services, whether it is for registration; applying for licenses; making payments for the general public; increasing the efficiency and efficiency of access to Government services. So, if you're living in one of the rural areas, if you live in Carriacou or Petite Martinique, you would not have to come to St. George's in order to renew a licence, or to make certain payments. All of that would be able to be done, electronically, and that Digital Governance Programme is there supportive of that; as I said dovetails into the CARCIP Programme. **(Applause)**

Finally, Mr. President, six million US dollars (US\$6 m), which is for a regional OECS Health Initiative; two million dollars (\$2 m) of that would be allocated, specifically,

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for Healthcare initiatives here in Grenada; the other four million dollars (\$4 m), as part of a Healthcare Enhancement Programme within the Region.

So, Mr. President, these are all Capital Projects that bring efficiency to the Public Service and is enabling Government to serve the people better, and create this enabling environment for growth and development of our Economy. And, Mr. President, it is for those reasons, I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Mr. President, I rise to give my full support to the second reading of the Bill before us, and to say, specifically, that with the support that this Government is receiving, in terms of IDA Loan Facility from the World Bank, it's a clear indication of the prudent fiscal management of this Economy. And, I am extremely proud to say that I am a part of a Government that has taken the bulls by the horn, when they came in in 2013, to ensure that they stabilise the economy, and to put in place systems that will, as we're seeing right now, an Economy that is robust, that is doing well, and as a result, we're getting support.

So, this Loan Authorisation at very concessionary rates, point five percent (.5%) and to repay we have to repay over a forty-year period and to have a grace period of between five (5) to ten (10) years is extremely concessionary. But, what is most important and as the Leader of Government's Business would have highlighted the services that this will provide for the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique is extremely important and as we're saying, what we are doing at this point in time is to continue to build this economy and continue to ensure that our people can receive as I say, first world services within this small State. And, I'm extremely happy that we are doing this today, and I give my full support to the second reading, Mr. President. Thank you.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Ron Redhead, you have the floor.

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Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: I thank you, Mr. President. Now, Mr. President, I have a very different view in relation to what I just heard, obviously, let me just... Now, Mr. President, the 2019 Budget Loan Authorisation Bill is very interesting, and it tells a particular story in our view about the Grenadian economy. When we go through, Mr. President, the numbers, and I must say and must add, Mr. President, I'm currently going through numbers for preparation for the 2020 Budget Debate, and I'm putting it in line with this request for the loan. Right. The Bill seeks to authorise, Mr. President, Government to borrow nothing more than one hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M). Now, in just seven (7) months, Mr. President, into the Fiscal Year, Government is coming to approve a loan to borrow one hundred and eighteen (\$118M). And, out of that one hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M), if it borrows that amount, nine point nine million dollars (\$9.9M) is all that it needs to finance what it put forward here by way of numbers. Right, just nine point nine, but you need to borrow one hundred and eight million dollars (\$118M); that's not adding up, you have a hundred and eight million dollars, Mr. President, eight point one million dollars (\$8.1M), Mr. President, extra. What you plan to do with that?

But, the interesting part about this is that, Mr. President, out of that nine point nine million dollars (\$9.9M), nine point one (\$9.1) is under Recurrent Expenditure, \$9.1. So, if you're saying to me that you are going to grow the economy, you're borrowing this, this is money that will benefit, you just have two (2) capital projects, the Ministry of Climate Resilience and the Ministry of Health. Now, we don't have any issue, Mr. President, if things have to be done, that is important, that people would get jobs etcetera, but this is not giving a clear indication that it is to grow the economy. Recurrent expenditure would not grow the economy. That has to do, Mr. President, with wages to ensure that you have gas in the vehicles, etcetera, and it's very, very telling in our view.

So, imagine, Mr. President, you go into the bank to take a loan, you want to remodel a room in your house, a kitchen or some sort, all you need is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), but you're going and say to the bank, you need ten thousand dollars to do that remodeling, but you're looking to borrow one hundred and eighteen dollars

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(\$118,000), way more than what you need, almost eleven (11) times more, Mr. President, than what you really need the money for. We have some issues with that.

Mr. President, the last time something like that happened and I want to make that obviously clear. We saw, Mr. President, an Appropriation Bill brought to the House and that was on the verge of the Elections. Mr. President, we saw after that a set of door, window, fridge, all kind of thing was giving out. I just want to say this, if it is that you're borrowing one hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M), but your spending, your expenditure is only nine point nine million dollars (\$9.9M), what you intend to do with the one hundred and eight point one million dollars (\$108.1M)? That's my view.

Mr. President, the truth is that in accordance to the Public Finance Management Act, Section 29, you only borrow for two (2) main reasons, one, (1) insufficiency of funds, and two (2), in the case of emergency, a disaster of some sort. And, we have been blessed so far not to be hit by any extreme disaster. So, the only other logical reason why we have to borrow these monies is because of insufficiency. The Budget that we approved last year is not sufficient, because the fact, Mr. President, that you need to borrow for Recurrent Expenditure is something that you should have already put forward, this is annual, you know you will spend x amount, you know you spend x amount on salaries, wages, etcetera. So, that is interesting.

And, I have here, Mr. President, the fiscal summary, just briefly, I'm not going to call the numbers for the period, March 2019 and June 2019. In the case of current revenue, Mr. President, government under performed. In the case of total grants received, government under performed, in the case of total current expenditure, Mr. President, Government spent less or, maybe they had less to spend. In the case of primary surplus, Mr. President, Government achieved that, but it was under the targets that they set. In the case of June, same story, current revenue underperformed, total grants underperformed, total current expenditure you spend less or you had less to spend. A primary surplus again was achieved, but it was under the targets. And, when we take these numbers, Mr. President, and we compare the same period in relation to last year, what we see is a trend, in fact, this year is lower than last year as well, with these same numbers. So, Mr. President, it is telling us something particularly why we

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need to go to IDA, and let us try to put that into perspective here. The International Development Association, Mr. President, is a member of the World Bank Group, but they really give to poor countries. They are not giving because your economy is doing so buoyant and so on. The reason why the loan is at this rate is because you may not have the ability to pay at the higher rates. That's really what it is and Government certainly must seek the best deal, we agree with that, but, Mr. President, it's not because you're doing so well. Barbados cannot access it, Antigua cannot access it because they are doing a little better than us.

In fact, according to the report from the Latin American and Caribbean Community, Grenada stands about number four (4). Right. So, Antigua I believe is ahead. The fact is, Mr. President, even if that is the reason, that still is not making any sense as to why you need to borrow, one hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M), Mr. President, just to cover nine point nine million dollars (\$9.9M) in spending. We have some issues with that.

So, Mr. President, let us now try and inspect the numbers. Right. Now, we don't have any issue with Vote 50, Ministry of Health, it's important. Mr. President, we wish a little more could have been allocated. We don't have any issues with Vote 21, Pensions and Gratuities, we understand the need for that. Mr. President, we don't have any issue with Police, Vote 12, any way that they can get upgraded we are happy for that.

But, Mr. President, when we analyse, you say this is to grow the economy, Vote 1, Governor General, Recurrent Expenditure six hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars, five hundred (\$655,500). This is under the Recurrent Expenditure. In fact, Mr. President, we hear a lot of talk now about the Judiciary when it gets it home and so on. We hope its practical and it is achieved. But, the Governor General needs a residence.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Yes. Mr. President, I stand on a Point-of-Order, 37 (1), Scope of Debate...

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Mr. President: One second please. Standing Order 37 (1).

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: So, the debates...

Mr. President: One, one minutes, one minute...

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: So, the ‘**debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment, except in the case of a motion for the adjournment of the Senate**’. The Senator on the ‘Other Side’, I think is talking about the next Bill, Supplementary Appropriation Bill, he is going through. So, I think he is a little confused. The beginning of his statement when we’re speaking to Loan Authorisation, he is mixing the two up. He was confused there too, but I gave him latitude, but right now he is going down a route that he should save for the next Bill, Mr. President. What he is discussing right now is not relevant to the Bill that’s before us.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Mr. President, if I may, I understand that argument, that it’s two separate Bills, but the purpose for the borrowing is outlined in this one.

(Inaudible comments were made)

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Yes, but hold on, hold on, hold on. Mr. President, let me just...

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, the Member on ‘This Side’ is very confused. No it’s not, Mr. President.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Now, Mr. President, I understand the Budget Loan Authorisation Bill. I know it is separate because it needs to give to the

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extent... So, Mr. P resident, I would just go further to say this, while this is the Supplementary Bill, the purpose is that this is, they are correlated, they are correlated.

(Inaudible comments were made)

Sen. the Hon. Ron. Livingston Redhead: Right, Mr. President, well, I will certainly respect that. So, Mr. President, then let's stick to the specific Bill, the Budget Loan Authorisation Bill. Now, on this part of the Bill, Mr. President, you said that in the Explanatory Notes, you said that "This Bill seeks to authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow specified amounts of money to cover borrowings for the period August to December." In this same Bill, you're saying here now, "Authority to raise loan", right, that's on page 3. Right. You're saying "...to cover borrowings for the period July to December 2019." That's a problem in our view, Mr. President. Again, I accept the argument that they are not correlated and what have you. I accept that. But, Mr. President, this in particular, this seem to be an issue. In other words, you can't say it's for August to December here, and then you're still saying in the same bill, is for July to December, that's not making any sense.

Mr. President, we understand to the extent what this really would seek to do. Now, we know for example, Mr. President, that the interest rate is not negotiated as yet. The terms of repayment is not negotiated as yet. The fees is not negotiated as yet.

Now, we also see, Mr. President, "Tabling of the Agreements." We hear from the "Government Side" that the Agreement and so on would be signed and it would be concessionary. We understand that argument. So, now, Mr. President, the question is, will we see this being tabled? Has there ever been any tabling of this particular Bill? We do not believe that in recent history there were, and Mr. President, what we are calling for is if you're going to go ahead with this, Mr. President, we must try and adhere to what is says clearly. So, "Tabling of the Agreement," we need to know exactly what is the interest rate, terms and repayment and the fees? We, Mr. President, certainly would like to just express that. And, Mr. President, I do apologise for mixing the two (2) up and I thought they were jointly related. Thank you very much.

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Mr. President: Senator Andre Lewis.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to raise or thank Senator Stiell for the elaboration in terms of the various targeted areas. But, it would be useful in our view in going forward that these information be presented to us, the documents early. You know this is the Senate, and I don't think anyone of us here who represent the different interest groups, apart from the Senators that sits on the 'Other Side' who has an opportunity during a Cabinet discussions and other Caucuses to be able to look into those matters. It is not really fair for us on 'This Side' to be now told about this because certainly we came here wondering what is it being used for, because in the one page (I'm speaking about the Schedule), it is just very vague. You know, it left us to wonder what would it be used for and especially in a period which I'll address later, where there are all different things flying around the place. Right. There is the issue of the... and probably I shouldn't go there, but there is the issue of the investigation that we are calling for on certain matters, right, which I'll address on the adjournment.

When we get papers like this that does not identify, our constituents are asking us these questions. And therefore, we are making a request of the 'Government Side' to be more forthcoming, not wait on the last minute, and especially in a period like now where we got this just before the carnival. When we got this information and it was not in its totality. As a matter of fact, we got this, I think on Thursday or Friday of last week, and it was sent to us simultaneously as it was sent to the House. How do we know that there are no amendments made in the House? We did not get, to the best of my recollection, we did not get any additional information, Mr. President, which indicate that this is now the finalised Bills that are coming to us. The House sat on Friday, and we take the responsibility, we take the responsibility to perform our duties, but we are asking for those requests. Yes, as I said, the one pager and I'm glad for the explanation, I did a quick math, yes, it add up to forty something million. One further question, I'm not too sure if I got it correctly and Senator Stiell you can help me here, the question of the US 3 million that is to be used, in relation to, is it CARCIP, you said

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this has to do with the fibre optic project, fibre optic. Does this have anything to do with the current running of the cables that is taking place? And, if the answer is, yes, I'll have a follow up; if the answer is, no, then I would sit.

(Sen. Stiell responded inaudibly)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: No, it's equipment?

(Sen. Stiell responded inaudibly)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: And, could I ask whether or not the Government has anything to do with that project that is currently taking place, in terms of the running of the cables.

(Sen. Stiell responded inaudibly)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: No. It's Digicel. Okay. Thanks. I just wanted clarity because I was hearing different. I had different information, but I wanted to clarify it.

No, I heard my information because I spoke to some of our local guys who originally were involved in the project, and I know why they are no longer there. I formed the impression that it was a Private Sector purely driven project. **(Inaudible comments)** It's PPP, public partner. So, the Government is part of it? **(Inaudible comments)** Thanks, okay, so if it's PPP, it therefore means that Government has a stake, its investment. It would have been useful to see, and I'm not aware if it's taking place, but it would have been useful to see, the transference of what I call 'local knowledge'.

All that I'm saying, all that I'm saying, and I know the aspect had to do with equipment, the aspect of speed because it was our local company as far as I gathered who had the project originally and had difficulties in delivering because they needed to

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come up with funds that they were unable to come up with. Yes. If the Government is involve as you have indicated, it would therefore be important, if it is not too late, Minister Stiell and the 'Government Side', if it is not too late, to make a request to have locals involved in this project so we can have transference of skills because as we pass from time to time, the main guys that deals with fibre optic, works with Cable and Wireless, but outside of these, we have the guys who were formally with Cable and Wireless who have their own local companies. So, we have limited people who are trained in fibre optic. But, every time we pass, we're seeing a small transport pull up on the side of the road, guys are connecting fibre which is highly technical, but I'm not seeing any local person involved in this. So, I'm making that request from the Labour Movements point-of-view, that if it is not too late, I do not know how long the project have to go again that it ought to be local involvement.

And, also I have observed that in local areas we have some of these individuals who have been brought into the country to do this work are the ones that are directing traffic. Now, these are not skilled jobs; these are not skilled jobs. And therefore, we should insist because it is a PPP, especially because it is a PPP, that our local people especially when you're moving from village to village or from a Parish to a Parish that we have the local, our local people involved in those aspects that you do not require training for. You do not require training to call traffic, to direct traffic, but certainly on the high-end area in terms of scale, we should see that and probably that's where the IMANI comes in, probably a section. This kind of thinking is what we need to do, probably there should be a section identified through the IMANI who is designed to be, to be assigned to projects like these, so that at the end of the day in the not too distant future, even if we have to bring in equipment because it is not available, but we will have local knowledge that can assist. That would be my contribution in relation to this here. Thank you very much.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

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Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. President, well, if I could in wrapping up this debate, I'll start by addressing some of the points that Senator Redhead made. Mr. President, we are not in school, we are not in school, we're not in school. I was a little confused, but I gave, I gave latitude. So, first there's a separation, fundamentally separate in terms of what is being asked in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and I'll go into that debate in a few minutes. But, the nine million dollars (\$9M) that we are asking there, we're asking the House to approve is extra monies. A Budget was passed in November of 2018, Mr. President, that was one point one billion dollars (\$1.1B). That's the total budget. So, throughout the course of the year, through savings, through additional revenues, money that's come in, is not just recurrent, there is capital there too, additional resources, Mr. President, have been made available through prudent management of the economy of our fiscal management. Through prudence, Mr. President, we have gotten additional nine million dollars that we didn't have at the beginning of the year. So, what do we do? Do we stick in the bank, do we put it under the bed, we bury it in a hole? No, Mr. President, we identify areas of national need and we increase our spending there. So, these are additional monies, Mr. President, on top of the one point one billion dollars (\$1.1B) that were approved in the 2019 Estimates for Revenues and Expenditure. So, that's a positive thing. The Senator on the 'Other Side' is making as if there is something untoward, as if this is bad management. This is very, very good management, this is extra monies that we're applying to areas of need. And, we will get into that discussion in a little while.

The Budget Loan Authorisation Bill, this is one hundred and eighteen million (\$118M), we could say no, to the World Bank, we don't have to take that money. We could say no, to it. An international institution is offering Grenada a hundred and eighteen (\$118M) on the softest of soft loans that you can find to invest in four (4) specific areas, our health care system, digital governance, improving the efficiency of Government service, how Government interacts with the public to make it easier for the public to access Government services. So, first of all, we can say no, to health care. They want to give us six million (\$6M), we could say no, no, we don't want it. In order to

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improve Government services, we could say, no, and stay with what we have. So, somebody living in Grenville has to spend an hour and a half getting into Town, queue up for an hour at the Revenue Office, wasting an entire day or somebody from Carriacou or Petite Martinique has to spend two (2) days, bust their tails on the Osprey, come over, rent a place, have to get transport up and down, up and down. We say no to that. It's nonsense, Mr. President, but we're not in school. I'll give the gentleman a little lesson. **(Inaudible comments)**

So, Mr. President, we could say no, to CARCIP, to get Grenada into the information super highway, broadband connectivity with the rest of the world, length and breadth of Grenada, connecting to the outside world, fibre optic cables, this will enable Government to operate more efficiently, this is for the Private Sector. All these young men and women, here in Grenada, some bright young people we have here in Grenada, Mr. President, working in some very innovative areas in digital media, developing applications, developing technologies, taking advantage of this high speed network we have, which will get even faster, which means that they are competitive. Again, this thing about world class, why don't we elevate ourselves, Mr. President, elevate our thinking, elevate our ambition to enable our young men and women, our industrious young men and women, so that they can compete with somebody in New York, in London, in Tel Aviv, wherever it may be, so we can compete on that international stage.

The gentleman across here wants us to say no to it. Keep your, what was the, that amount? So, for the digital governance, that's fifteen million US dollars (US\$15M), CARCIP, so eighteen million dollars (\$18M), we will just to them, no, that's what the gentleman on the 'Other Side' is saying, Mr. President. So, we should say no to the World Bank, and what was the other area, this development policy credit, so, work in terms of improving our policies at the fiscal level, stuff we're doing with Blue Growth. All of those things, we should say no, that's twenty million US dollars (US\$20M); we should say no to that too.

Mr. President, I don't know where this gentleman is coming from. So, the answer is, yes, Senator Redhead. We need to be saying, yes, to this point five of a percent,

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five (5) to ten (10) years, you don't have to pay anything back, when you do have to pay it back up to forty (40) years. When we can upgrade our broadband network, first world capabilities for the development of this Nation. A Regional Health Care Service is going to help improve much needed improvement in our health care systems and other services.

So, Mr. President, the gentleman has it wrong, **(inaudible comment was made)**, sorry; Senator on the 'Other Side' sorry.

So, Mr. President, this is actually a positive thing, there are countries that are falling over themselves. Barbados is currently in a Structural Adjustment Programme, they are following the model that Grenada followed. They're not entitled to either support. They would wish that they were in our position right now to take advantage and they, well, maybe there are persons there too who would object and say no, this is a bad thing. But, Mr. President, this is a good thing, and it is recognition of the progressiveness of this country, the progress that we have made, over the course of these last, six/seven years and those monies are being put to extremely good use that would help develop our Nation. **(Applause)**

So, Senator Lewis, I can't speak specifically to the points you raised, but the principle, I agree with the principle. So, where you have a project which involves either private entities, foreign entities, then those services, goods and services that can be provided from local sources should take priority, it's that principle I agreed with. I don't know the specifics, as I said that he was speaking to, but the principle that you speak to, I think it's certainly something that we would support and it's discussions we have all the time in Cabinet when we are working with outside entities.

The only thing I would flag is, I mean the technology that is involved in this project is high tech, is high skilled work. So, whether we have persons who are qualified, not qualified, again the principle of providing that opportunity so our workers can learn and be able to provide that level of service, again, I think is a very noble one. But, as I said, the specifics, I can't speak to, but the principles that you speak to, I fully accept.

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So, Mr. President, in closing this Loan Authorisation Bill, this hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M) is of high value to Grenada, is high value to the people of Grenada, is high value and would be a significant contribution to our economic and social development. And, it's for those reasons, Mr. President, I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Mr. President: Senator Redhead.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Mr. President, I just want to say this. Now, I am not in the business of arguing, but all I am saying is, this particular Budget Loan Authorisation Bill did not spell out what the loan was going to be used for. So, the confusion to an extent, whatever it's worth came as a result, Mr. President, we were sent this. Now, the Leader of Government's Business has the layout, why can't we as other Parliamentarians get a layout too, so we could also critique as we see the need to, Mr. President, what the purpose of the loan is for? They are just reporting to us. And, I am just saying, Mr. President, in relation to what the loan would be used for, this is where the concern is. So, I do apologise for mixing up these figures, but I am saying, if you bring this, bring to an extent what it would be used for, one hundred and eighteen million dollars (\$118M), we hear it's little money, little concessionary rates and so on but say what it would be spent on by paper. So we could see, we could critique as well, along with you. Thank you.

Question put and agreed.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. President: Senator Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of this Bill.

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Mr. President: Members understand it's a Money Bill, so there is no need to get to the Committee Stage.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. President: Just let me make a point. I have allowed the back and forth debate and I think it's emerging why I allowed it. So, it's not that I am encouraging a breach of the rules, but it's important. Senator Stiell always remember that the public also has to follow the discourse in the Chamber. Right. So, while it may be clear to you, but if there are indications that the public may not be that clear, then you also have an obligation. Because we really, Lawmakers and not really only speaking to ourselves. We also are speaking to the governed who have an interest in the Laws which we passed. So, see this as an opportunity for speaking to the audience outside of the Chamber, and don't be constrained or contained by only us who are assembled in the Chamber here. I just thought I would make that point because that underscores why I allowed the latitude to take place. Yes.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to introduce for first reading of the Bill for an Act shortly entitled Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2019.

Ag. Clerk: An Act to appropriate an additional sum of nine million, nine hundred and sixty-seven thousand, seven hundred and ninety dollars (\$9,967,790.00) to service the State of Grenada for the period August 1st to December 31st, 2019, shortly entitled, Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2019.

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Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move 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.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. Mr. President, as this is a Money Bill, I wish to signal to this Honourable House that I have the Speaker's Seal of consent to proceed.

Mr. President, section 23 of the Public Finance Management Act 17, 2015 states that **"if in a financial year the amount budgeted for a specific program or initiative is either insufficient or there is no budgetary allocation, a Supplementary Estimate outlining the sums required should be approved by this House."** And again insufficient or no budgetary allocation, new items, new money monies been brought in.

Therefore, Mr. President, we are seeking to introduce a Supplementary Appropriation Bill providing for the issue of such sums from the Consolidated Fund totalling nine million, nine hundred and sixty seven thousand, seven hundred and ninety dollars (9,967,790.00). This comprises of Capital Expenditure of seven hundred and seventy five thousand, eight hundred and forty dollars (\$775,840.00) and Recurrent Expenditure of seven hundred and seventy five thousand... I'll come back and correct that number, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I will highlight some of the significant allocations relevant to the Supplementary Appropriation 2019. So under vote 21; Pensions and Gratuities, two million dollars is allocated. This is an advanced payment towards any pension resolution to retirees who joined the Public Service in an established post after the 22nd of April 1985, **(applause)**, served for 26 2/3 years and attained the retirement age of 60 years,

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the qualifying individuals. Mr. President, what we are effectively doing is topping up the NIS Pension to help ensure that these retirees receive at least 70% of their last salary.

(Applause) Mr. President, this will not be a one off payment, but a monthly commitment that would supplement the NIS received by the Pensioners who meet this criteria. This move by Government is purely voluntarily and underscores Government's position towards pension reform, that although this Government does not have a legal obligation, it is committed to doing what is morally just, fair and financially responsible.

(Applause) Mr. President, we also recognise that with the current impasse on the pension matter and because the matter is before the Courts, I don't think we should go into too much detail there. And with the matter in the Courts, any further delays in finding a solution will simply extend the hardships that these retired men and women currently face. This is why Government is sympathetic to that point and have taken action to bring relief to those retired officers.

Under vote 15; Ministry of Health, Social Security and International Business two million, one hundred and thirty nine thousand, six hundred and forty six dollars (2,139,646.00) is allocated of which over one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is allocated to the procurement of pharmaceuticals and specifically for the areas of Cancer Treatment and for Kidney Disease. So this is **(applause)** addressing this present areas with all of the deficiencies that you know we have within the Health Care System, we're doing everything that we can do in those areas to provide additional support, especially in those critical areas.

The balance, one million, three thousand, six hundred and forty-six dollars is provided to take up the expenditure of those nurses who served under Grencase, who are now employed directly by the Ministry of Health. **(Applause)** So, Mr. President, these additional resources underscores our continued commitment to providing the best possible Health Care Service for our people.

Under Vote 10; the Office of the Prime Minister. Mr. President, as our economy continues to grow and more opportunities are created and more of those benefits, trickle down to more and more people, we must also ensure that those who remain vulnerable are provided with the necessary assistance. As such an additional allocation of two

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hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) is provided to ensure that our students and senior citizens are able to meet their basic needs.

Under Vote 30; the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Public Utilities, Energy, Transportation and Implementation, six hundred and eighty thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$680,750.00) is allocated. Mr. President, this is for the operations of the Transportation Board and for the salaries of the new Traffic Wardens that were deployed earlier this year. I noticed the Police were just outside down below, speed cameras and stopping a number of persons were speeding along our roads. But the issue, Mr. President of whether it's illegal parking, whether it is other offensive behaviours that are adding to issues of road safety or congestion are a priority for this Government, hence the introduction of the Traffic Wardening System, which we are seeing the benefits certainly in our hour city centres. And in addition to addressing some of those road offences that are resulting in congestion and other inconveniences, Mr. President, we've also created opportunities for over 40 young men and women who have taken on the challenge of this new career path.

Under Vote 12; Police, one million and seventy thousand dollars (\$1,070,000) is allocated to cover salaries of new recruits, so additional Police Officers entering the Police Force and for those Officers who have recently been promoted to higher ranks and rewarded with increased salaries. Mr. President, Grenada is one of the safest countries in the world. But that safety and security is not something that we need... we should take for granted, hence the need for constant investment in our Police Force, our Police Services.

Under Vote 35, Ministry of Social Development and Housing, the sum of one million, six hundred and seventy five thousand dollars (\$1,675,000.00) is allocated for increased support in the areas of child protection. Mr. President, we all know the scourge of child abuse that is plaguing our Nation. We have heard outcries, whether from the Government level and at a Public level and the call for additional support, additional resources to tackle that. So, Mr. President, the extra funding that is available here will go in part to the Child Protection Agency, in addition to providing resources for

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our vulnerable children, support for home care, and our outreach to shutins and those who are most vulnerable within our communities.

And finally on the Recurrent side, Mr. President, under Vote 40, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, the sum of four hundred and twenty three thousand and fifty four dollars (\$423,054.00) which will go towards supporting Grenadian students studying in Trinidad. The Government of Trinidad cancelled their support program for regional students back in 2018. And to ensure that those Grenadian students who are enrolled in programs there up to 2020 - 2021 have the financial resources they need to be able to complete their studies. And those sums, Mr. President, are used to support that.

On the Capital Expenditure side, the sum of seven hundred and seventy five thousand, eight hundred and forty dollars (\$775,840.00) of grant resources has been brought into the system. There are two areas there, so under the Ministry of Climate Resilience, a project and CEFAS which is Centre for Environmental Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. This is a project under the GIZ I-Cast Project which is looking at building greater resilience in our Coastal Communities. This project is looking at monitoring and data collection of our coastline, so that data can help predict what is happening to our coastlines and that data is also essential, that empirical data, when it comes to applying for resources from the likes of the Green Climate Fund, in terms of the project development where those projects, those proposals need to be evidence-based. So, this is the sum of two hundred and seventy five thousand dollars (\$275,000.00) is coming into the system. And then five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) for again a Regional Health Project.

So, Mr. President, although this Government has and continues to make significant progress across the board, we recognise there is still a considerable amount of work to be done. But what this Supplementary Appropriation of nine million, nine hundred and sixty seven thousand, seven hundred and ninety dollars (\$9,967,790.00) of additional, (these are additional resources) allocated to areas such as Health, Social Development, Child Protection, Road Safety, our security support for our students,

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Pensioners, Nurses, further demonstrates that this Government puts people first. Mr. President, it is for those reasons I recommend this Bill for its second reading.

Question proposed.

Mr. President: Senator André Lewis.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you very much, Mr. President. The Labour Movement welcomes the money set aside for Pension, because we see this as Senator Simon Stiell indicate, this is a Court matter and if someone has one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for me and I can get twenty (\$20) now I will take it. So we welcome that, I mean anything that can help alleviate any issues that someone may have. We do maintain that the main purposes that our people will like these moneys upfront for, has not yet been addressed but we are confident on this down the road. The aspect of the formula that will give you some... a lump sum of money in your hand. Because the pensioners live from hand to mouth; yes, the pensioners live from hand to mouth. And not being able to address some of the outstanding issues in terms of their finances, their liabilities will still impact upon them. However, we welcome, I want to place on record, we welcome that development in relation to persons would now be able to get some moneys that they did not receive in the past. So we welcome that.

A question... I'll ask a question, make a comment, hopefully that under the moneys for the Police which we support. Security is an extremely important matter that we do not... as a matter of fact, we share the view that enough has not been done for security, in terms of the human resources aspect, the care of the Police Officers. If you look at the facilities, if you look at the Police facilities, if you look at the housing conditions under which they live in the Stations, they must be commended, they must be commended for going beyond the call of duty, yes. **(Applause)** There are places where these colleagues live and when the rain come they get wet. It is not just about infrastructure in terms of the road, but we have to treat our security officers with the level of care and concern that is needed.

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In relation to this one point something million dollars, we would like to know if any of this is... if part of it is designed for the monies that has been put aside or been earmarked for the paying of the annual vacation leave of the Police Officers? Why is this important? As I said I know it's a ticklish matter because on the question of security especially the security of the Prime Minister, I don't want to go there, but it's important to focus on the following.

(One Member said 'don't go there')

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Stop it **(chuckles)** this is not a private matter. As a matter of fact, I am glad that this is raised, Mr. President, because the question of investigative journalism that our goodly Senator spoke about earlier on, if you do investigate journalism, it would require you to go there. The aspect of annual vacation leave must be managed properly, because even from a security point of view, if you are not taking your vacation, it can lead to tiredness, it can lead to a drop in your level of alertness.

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Mr. President: ...into matters touching and concerning personal security of an individual in a manner which may improve the awareness of people who may have untoward intentions. I understand the need for debate, I understand the need for investigative journalism, but I also understand the need for caution. And I'm wondering whether the negatives... you see when it comes to a matter of personal security of the person, it's a matter that ought to be treated very delicately and I don't know if it's proper for the Chamber to be venturing into an area which is exceedingly, to my mind, sensitive.

I don't think it is wise for us to debate who may be weary, who may be tired, who may not be sufficiently alert, to effectively be able to use a firearm. I think it's an area, I mean I don't want to shut down the debate. I run the risk of being accused but I prefer to

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be... to err on the side of caution and in this Chamber under which I superintend, I think I have a responsibility and I take that responsibility very, very seriously. The circumstances may have been different, there's absolutely no doubt about that but our history records that almost an entire Cabinet and the primary Office of political leadership suffered a particular fate. We live in a completely changed world, I would appeal to the... I'm not making a ruling so, which I can do. But I'm making an appeal that this subject matter, it's not the best place for us to deal with it.

I think it creates certain compromises, which my life's wisdom indicates to me that we ought not to venture down into that path. So, I'm not making a ruling which does not equate to my incapacity to make a ruling. But I just want to... I am certain Senators will have a certain appreciation of what I am trying to say. It might be a 'sexy', for want of a... speaking figuratively it might be a 'sexy' political subject, but I believe therein lies certain security compromising issues. And I would prefer for us to leave those matters alone. So I am not making a ruling, I'm appealing to the better part of sobriety and reason. But if I have to make a ruling, I will not be constrained in making one.

Senator Lewis the floor is yours.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you very much, Mr. President, and I wish to assure you that I do recognise as I said before the sensitivity of the nature and I rest my case. But just to also assure you, Mr. President, and the House, that... and I am sure that, that was not the intention of the President. My contribution had nothing to do with the politics of anything. I just wanted to rest that there, and to say I appreciate that and I do appreciate the points that you have raised. It was not my intention to go anywhere else at all and I thank you, very much for that, because it is indeed a sensitive nature.

So in closing, I just want to repeat our welcome again, and I just wanted to spend a little time on this because I know that, that pension matter for the workers, whether it is \$300, \$100 more for anyone, means a lot. I really really want to place that there. But also, most important, because this is the message I get every day, this is the message I get every day from the same teachers who have contributed so much to the passing of

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all of our children and grandchildren. And despite the challenges that they went through, we saw a 5% increase in the performance of the children while they saw a docking of their pay. But what is the most important is the aspect of that gratuity, which I know will be addressed elsewhere. So once again, I just rest my case. Thank you very much.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to give my support to the second reading of this Bill and to highlight two (2) areas as it relates to the Ministry of Health and we do know as a Ministry and as a Government, we have been constantly looking at ways and means to ensure that we improve Healthcare and the level of service that is being provided to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, is at the highest level. And we will stop at nothing until we ensure that we are at a place where our people can access proper Healthcare, proper service and walk into an environment that is conducive for healing to take place. Because we do know that the environment, the aesthetics it too have its place in providing healing. So what we are seeing here in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, it's another move by this Government to ensure that we continue to build on the Services that we provide within the Ministry of Health and to ensure that Health Practitioners are at the place where they can provide optimum service to our people. So, hiring of new persons or new nurses and so forth for the Health Sector is critical in achieving this objective.

Sergeant-at-Arms: The Deputy President in the Chair.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: So, Mr. Duputy President, I am proud as a Member of this Government to stand here and to give support to this. Because, we have heard it constantly that our healthcare is not where it ought to be. I will agree, but this is a move to bring it up to a higher level. So kudos to the Minister of Health and...

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the abled Minister of Health and his team of workers to continue to provide high level of service to our people. So I give my full support to this.

And secondly, Mr. President, and I know the matter is *sub judice*, so we can't say much on it as it relates to the Pension issue. But, I do know we don't have a problem with Pension at this point in time, Mr. Deputy President, because this has been long settled already, and I think my fellow Senator on the 'Other Side' can nod in approval. The Pension issue has been settled. There is a question as it relates to gratuity. And that is what has to be settled in the Court, but there has been an approval and agreement that the take-home pay for retirees will be 70% of their last salary. So what they're getting right now might be in the vicinity of maximum probably 58% from NIS. And Government has agreed with the Trade Union to top up that final take-home salary, or top up what they are getting from NIS which might equate to 58% of their final salary to 70%. And that has been agreed, so we are working towards that, but this... more than this, Mr. President, this is a fulfillment to a promise we've made.

You know, ever so often in Election campaigning you say you're going to this and that, the other and when you win, some people go far away from it. Not this Government, we have decided when we made a promise, we're going to fulfill it. And we fought hard, and today we are fulfilling this by putting in the Appropriation Bill, two million dollars, so that those pensioners who have retired already, and we always hear that we are retiring into poverty, we're saying they're going to be upgraded. They're going to be upgraded to 70% of their final salary and it will take them a long way. So those who have spoken to me, and I feel their pain, this is a welcome addition for them. We would have loved to go the full haul and get the Trade Union would have signed off and get everything finalised so everybody will be on same page. But hear this, Mr. President, Mr. Deputy President, we do know and we understand how the Court System operates. we have no involvement there, the Judiciary will do what it has to do. But this could be a long drawn out matter from... looking from what we have seen elsewhere. What this Government is saying, the very said people we have been told is retiring into poverty, we're saying they matter to us. So in the meantime while the matter is at the Court, and the Court will take whatever time to adjudicate, those persons will still remain

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in poverty and we want to fix that. And this two million dollars that is budgeted for this 5 month window, will ensure that those persons will receive that upgrade.

And who knows, we might extend some lives because people now can be able to take care of their basic needs. Those things that they couldn't do before, they're able to do it now because they're going to get that upgrade. And I want to believe that the... when I listen to my colleague Senator for Labour on the 'Other Side' saying that they welcome it, I do believe he welcome it because it is what you been asking for. So you give the Government the credit. We have listened and we have done it but moreso, we have fulfilled a promise and a commitment we made to this people of this country. And as we have done with many other commitments and promises we have made. We spoke of going to upgrade the Healthcare service, yes we are doing that because it matters to all of us. Because this is our people and our country. If the Healthcare service is not where is supposed to be, we are all going to feel it. So I am extremely happy today, Mr. Deputy President, to lend my voice to the second reading of this Bill, thank you.

Mr. Deputy President: Senator Redhead.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. Now, Mr. Deputy President, I am happy that we cleared up that misunderstanding earlier on. So I would now comment specifically on the Supplementary Appropriation Budget or Bill. Now, Mr. President, we heard clearly was what expressed by the Leader of Government's Business; now we have some concerns with certain areas. As I said earlier on, Mr. President, we are not against the Ministry of Health, we are not against in terms of the allocations, we are not against Pension and Gratuity, we are not against, Mr. President, the allocations for the Police Officers. I want to join with the Labour Senator and also the Leader of Government's Business who expressed, Mr. President, the need to improve security in and around Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. That is very important, we have no issues with that, we never did.

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But, Mr. Deputy President, there are certain Votes that we are concerned about. Now Vote 1, as I have said, the Governor General, the expenditure is on the recurrent side, the needs of the Governor General in our view, Mr. President, is to have the Governor General's residence upgraded. In other words if you're going to allocate any sum of money, because based on what they are saying is that this allocation will help improve the country and the economy and so on. But expenditure on the recurrent side largely do not do that, it's more on the capital side. We have identified, Mr. President, additionally two other or three other areas that we believe Capital Funding should have been made available to help cushion from August to December 2019. So the area Vote 1, the Governor General is one, the Governor Generals residence.

Vote 3 of course, the Supreme Court, Mr. President, the Judiciary has its own issues and challenges. We heard this morning, Mr. Deputy President, that there will be efforts and so on forth coming. Again, we don't know how much it is costing, we don't know what issues exist there and we hope, Mr. President, no issues at the moment will exist and that the Court Systems will be functional in a more prudent manner in time to come.

Mr. President, Vote 10, Office of the Prime Minister. Now, the Leader of Government's Business consistently explains this to be that you're paying you know something for young people and so on. But again we are making the point, in the Ministry of Social Development and in the Ministry of Education there are assistance programs available for people. The Ministry of Education gives scholarships, so for the Prime Minister's Ministry to be paying for education or education opportunities for people, that does not look good, it does not look right. And if you are telling me that we are in a period of fiscal.. Prudent Fiscal Management, this money, Mr. President, that you're allocating just to do do that does not make any sense in my view.

Mr. President, again for the Ministry of Social Development, if you're saying that is what the money is for, the Ministry of Social Development carries that responsibility, put the money where it will be best used, that's just the issue. Mr. President, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Public Utilities, Energy, Transport and Implementation, alright, now you have six hundred and eighteen thousand dollars for

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the Recurrent Expenditure. Now in my view when I hear the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, I am thinking Capital projects. Nothing on the Capital side, only on the recurrent side, but you're saying to me that this 9.9 is going to help grow the economy or whatever it is that you're claiming, again we have an issue with that, Vote 30.

Vote 40, Mr. Deputy President, finally the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Religious Affairs. Now, we don't have an issue with the allocation on the recurrent side because again, part in the issue, we are just giving figures, there is no breakdown to explain what for example in the Ministry of Youth, the twenty five thousand will be used for. No breakdown at all, you just give a figure. So in the Ministry of Education, Mr. President, we are saying that school repair programs, now the new school term is going to be commencing in September. The question is, recently we had a situation, Mr. President, where schools came under the microscope in terms of their conditions, a whole tank fall down, all kind of thing took place. My question is this, why... well rather, are there any allocations to help school repairs? And I listened faintly to the Minister of Education give an update in relation to that, that a program was established, but based on what I am seeing here, because this is going to cover the rest of the period for August to December. There is no allocation for Capital Projects to maintain or in terms of the school maintenance programs, so I don't know what is going on there.

Again, Mr. President... Mr. Deputy President, the fact that just about seven hundred and seventy five thousand dollars is allocated on the Capital Side and 9.1 million is on the Recurrent Side, economically we don't see that this is going to have any great or massive spinoffs on the economy. Because again, jobs and other things are created through the Capital Side of the Budget so we are not really satisfied with that. And again, we do not have an extreme breakdown to know Department by Department under the various Votes what these monies will be used for. So while I hear all the accolades and so on, that's good, but, Mr. Deputy President, we have some concerns with the economy and certainly we'll get to that in the near future. So thank you very much.

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Mr. Deputy President: Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. So just addressing some of the comments that were made from the Other Side. So first of all Senator Lewis and the general comments about annual vacation and the need to manage that, correct. I think the Prime Minister has been very, very clear in many of the statements that he has made to that where you have... This is something that has been historic, Mr. Deputy President, for a generation in Government where persons, Public Officers to the highest levels to the lowest levels accumulate significant amounts of leave. I believe the rule is you cannot accumulate more than 100 days and there are officers that have accumulated 200, 300 days. So we are aware of that and that is something that has to be managed. It is an Administrative thing, it is not at the Executive level, us as Ministers, Mr. Deputy President. That is not something that we get involved in. It is at the Administrative level that it needs to be managed. And this has been highlighted and it's been stated at the highest levels that measures will be put in place to address this. So I couldn't I agree more.

Senator Redhead, just going through this, Vote 1 Governor General's Residence. In fairness you don't have the information there, so I will be lenient. But the monies there, six hundred thousand of that six hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars is actually to the Integrity Commission and the Integrity Commission sits under the Governor General's Vote, and that is for the operations of the Integrity Commission. So I hope this answers that question.

Vote 3, Supreme Court, this is actually for something very specific, so there is a Judges Residence that is currently being refurbished and in the interim when that Residence is being refurbished there is a need to put up those judges in hotel accommodation, so that's where that figure is from.

Vote 40, you mentioned Education, remember it's important for all of us to remember the step, Mr. President. These are additional monies on top of the 1.1 billion dollars in the the regular Budget... for the Budget that was passed here back in November of last year. So there are programs that identified how many hundreds of

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millions of dollars is spent on Capital, how many hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on the recurrent side and this Administration, this Government is very proud in the focus it's done on reducing the Recurrent Expenditure, the cost of running Government and the increase on the Capital Side which is investing in productive areas.

So looking at this supplemental in isolation and saying well it's all recurrences, that's distorted, that's a distorted picture. Again, Mr President, as I said, we could have put the money under the mattress. Didn't have to spend those extra resources that were generated either through savings or additional monies coming in, but instead, Mr. President, the focus of this has been on people, on our nurses, on our students, **(applause)** on our children, on security and so forth. That's where they've chosen to spend it, and if you look at each of those areas there is a consensus, Mr. President, I think on every area, students, nurses, pensioners, children, the vulnerable. So, Mr. President, we could have just left the monies there and done something else with it but we decided to focus on those areas where we thought there was needs. So that Vote 40, a significant portion of that under, Education is for providing support for those Grenadian students who are currently studying in Trinidad, who no longer are able to access support from the Trinidadian Government and Government has set in. But talking about school maintenance and so forth, I said within the regular Budget, allocations are made their, tens of millions of dollars are being spent on the upkeep, maintenance of our schools, new schools etc.

So, Mr. President, as I said in my introduction these are additional resources, additional resources that have been allocated to areas that we believe are of need and touch people and touch those persons who are in most need of additional support. And it's for those reasons, Mr. Deputy President, that I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. Deputy President: Senator Stiell.

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Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move the third reading of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Deputy President: Senators, we do have lunch ready and the proposal is that we take our break for lunch now. Some of us who need to eat on time may be facilitated, so we will break for lunch now and we will resume at 1:30, if that is appropriate for the Members. Ok. So the House now stands adjourned until 1:30.

Senate adjourned for lunch at 1:10 p.m.

Senate resumed at 2:15 p.m.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, this House now resumes its business. Before we proceed further, earlier today when I was making my comments on the Tabling of the Bills... on the Tabling of Papers, I was trying to find a section of the Constitution to underscore what I was saying. I have since found it, actually I found it before I left the Chair, it's actually section 59 (3) of the Constitution, so, Senators can take note. And, I would read that section, subsection (3) in its entirety, "**The functions of the Cabinet shall be to advise the Governor-General in the Government of Grenada and the Cabinet shall be collectively responsible to Parliament for any advice given to the Governor-General by or under the general authority of the Cabinet for all things done by or under the authority of any Minister in the execution of his Office.**" I have been making that point to establish the accountability that Ministers of Government have to the Parliament and to Members of the Cabinet to the Parliament. And, if they're accountable to the Parliament, then the Parliament must hold it accountable. So, I just thought I would make this point to underscore the need for, especially 'This Side' of the House to be more proactive, reading through the Reports, filing questions on the Reports, as the case might be, so that we could have a

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much more proactive and lively Parliamentary engagement. So, again not wanting to elevate myself to the level of a teacher as Senator Stiell has done, but I think it's important for us to do so with the younger Members of Parliament.

Okay, Honourable Members, the Clerk where were we when the adjournment was taken. Senator Garraway. Okay.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to introduce for the first reading, a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Ag. Clerk: An Act to amend the Customs Act No. 9 of 2015, shortly entitled, Customs (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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. President: Senator Garraway

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

Mr. President, this Bill before us is very short and it seeks to basically amend an error, a typographical error as it relates to numbering in the Bill. And, I'll just like to look at **"Clause 2, provides for the amendment to section 82 (1) of the principal Act to**

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replace reference to section 79 (2) with reference to 79 (3) and 79 (5).” And, what section 82 (1) states, Mr. President, and I want to read: **“Unless otherwise specified in this Act, the due date for the payment of duty assessed in accordance with section 79, shall be the date that is 7 working days after the date on which written notice of the assessment under section 79 (2) is given.”**

And herein lies the problem because 79 (2) does not speak to notice. So here what is a problem, it said... the issue arises in the phrase **“written notice of the assessment under section 79 (2)”** because 79 (2) primarily speaks to assessment and section 79 (3) provides notice. So, therein lies our problem. Section 82, subsection (1) speaks to providing information as it relates to days, working days for the notice, but 79 (2), subsection (2) doesn’t speak to that. So, that’s where we want to make the change. And, if we’re going to go lower down into the Bill, let’s see what section 79 (2) speaks to, it says **“Where the Comptroller has reasonable cause to suspect that the duty or other charges is payable on goods for which no entry has been submitted, the Comptroller may determine the duty due at such amount as the Comptroller thinks proper, based on the provisions of this Act.”** It speaks to nothing about time and notice.

But, if you look at section 79 (3) of the principal Act it says, Mr. President, **“The importer or exporter shall be advised of an assessment under subsection (2) by notice in writing.”**

So, what we’re seeking to do here, Mr. President, is to basically have the change, so where section 79 (2) is stating to replace that to section 79 subsection (3). And, that is the gist of the problem that we have in this Bill, Mr. President. And with these few words, I want to commend the Bill for its second reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. President: Senator Garraway.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Senate resumed.

Mr. President: Honourable Members, I have to report that a Committee of the Senate considered the Bill Clause by Clause and there were no amendments.

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.

Mr. President: Senator Garraway.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. President: Senator Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to introduce for the first reading, a Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2019.

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Ag. Clerk: An Act to establish the enabling framework to facilitate the integrated management of the coastal resources of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique for the conservation and enhancement of those resources shortly entitled, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2019.

Mr. President: Senator Stiell.

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 put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. President: Senator Simon Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. President, by way of background to this Bill, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2019, it's important for us to reflect on the importance of our coastal zone and the assets that are contained within it. They are of significant value, economic, environmental and social. And especially poignant when we consider that 90% of our population lives within 2 miles of our coast. So in terms of the economics, Mr. President, Tourism is our biggest generator of foreign exchange and the most significant contributor to our GDP, somewhere in the region of 25 – 30% of our GDP. The majority of our hotel plants or resorts reside in that coastal zone. Our marinas in Grenada is one of the most popular marine and yachting destinations within the Caribbean. We have a number of world class marinas here and there are interest in others to come and establish said marinas.

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We look at our dive sites, Grenada has many pristine reefs, coral reefs... Carriacou is known as the Isle of Reefs. Again, some of the most pristine, virgin reefs within the region. We are also considered to be the wreck diving capital of the region, the Bianca C and other vessels that has been sunk as dive attractions; both providers in environmental protection but also a draw for visitors. Look at cruise tourism, hundreds of thousands of people visit our shores every year through the cruise sector, visiting our shores from the sea. We look at our airports, Maurice Bishop International Airport, Point Saline on the Coast. Lauriston in Carriacou, right there on the coast. Look at our sea ports, Carriacou and here in Grenada. Then we look at our fishing industry, whether it is long line fishing, whether it is bottom line fishing, seine fishing, fishpot fishing, spare fishing, the list goes on, fish export and the value of fish exports to our economy is significant, again another contributor of foreign exchange.

Then we look at the cultural and social value of our coastal zones, boat building, Carriacou, Petite Martinique, Windward. It is part of our identity, it is part of who we are. Transportation between the Islands, we are a seafaring Nation attached to, linked to the coast. I just look at my own family on my father and mother's side, boat builders, fisherman and sea captains. It is in our blood, Mr. President. This is who we are, you walk to any beach, morning, noon or night, we are there enjoying it. Whether it's those of us who enjoy an early morning stroll, a run, a swim, on the beach to start our day. Whether we prefer the evenings, the cool of the evenings, go to any of the beaches. Families, friends hanging on the weekends, customary for many of us to spend our time on the beaches; food, drink, music, laughter, debate. Mr. President, this is who we are as Caribbean people, it is an intrugal part of our way of life and our culture, that is invaluable. It defines us, it defines who we are in our ability to be able to access that and enjoy that.

And then there is environmental value, our coastal zone support a wide and diverse ecosystem. Our coral reefs support hundreds of species of marine life. Our coral reefs are spawning grounds, are nurseries for our fisheries sector. Critical, the coral reefs are critical to the sustainability of our fishing sector and our food security. Our coral reefs also play a very important role in protecting our coast line. They

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dissipate wave energy, so whether that is from regular storm surges, whether it is from... or sea surging, whether it is storm surges, hurricanes, etc., the need to have healthy coral to protect our coastlines and to protect our communities that live along those coastlines, is essential.

Then there is our sea grass beds, vital breeding grounds, feeding grounds for turtle and other marine species. Our mangroves are just like the reefs, spawning grounds, nurseries, providing protection from predators for those juvenile fish and again they help stabilise the coastline, again dissipating wave energy and preventing erosion. They also act as a filter, there is this concept of rich reef; what happens on land affects what happens on the sea. And with all the human sources, manmade sources of pollution, whether it is agricultural runoff, whether it is sediment from poor land use policies, dumping of these materials, we ought not to. The mangroves help to actually filter a lot of those pollutants, protecting those ocean waters.

And then our sand beaches again going back to... you know that is our gold coarse, key economic asset. But also our beaches and having plentiful amounts of sand on those beaches, also essential in terms of protecting the shoreline and protecting those communities that live on or near it. But in as valuable as these assets are, Mr. President, they are also highly fragile and highly, highly vulnerable. And they are subject to degradation whether it is due to climate change, rise in sea levels, storm surges etc., or whether it is the human impacts from high population concentrations along the coastal zone with growing population placing increased demands on these fragile ecosystems that exist there.

Human activities such as overuse of agrochemicals over fishing, inadequate solids and liquids waste, inappropriate infrastructure development, the removal of coastal vegetation including our mangroves and our sea grasses, illegal sand mining, the introduction of the invasive species such as the lion fish, came into our waters. They are not indigenous to our waters, they are voracious predators and negatively impacting our fish stocks. Mr. President, a list of these vulnerabilities... very, very long. So what are we doing about it? Mr. President, knowing the value and the importance of our coastal zone and its resources, there is a need to manage those in a more

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sustainable, coordinated and integrated way. There was an absence of any overaction coordination, coordinating mechanism with fragmented institutional responsibilities for coastal management whether it's in the Ministry of Agriculture, whether it's Environment, whether it's Fisheries, whether it's Physical Planning. Just a siloed approach to the management of these resources.

So therefore, work started in 2014 to develop a Policy that would take a more comprehensive approach to the management of our coastal zone. An approach that will take into account those different sectorial interest, Tourism, Fisheries, Physical Development etc. and they could address the economic, social and environmental sensitivities and considerations. That Policy, Mr. President, is the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy that went through that developmental process in 2014 and approved in Cabinet. And, Mr. President, it is that Policy that the Bill that is now being presented enacts the process of developing the Policy and the Legislation before us, has been highly participatory, highly... a lot of consultation took place. In total, somewhere in the range of 120 stakeholders have been involved in the consultation process and the development of the Policy and the development of the Bill.

So, Mr. President, I would now run through some of the key highlights of this Bill. The Bill before us contains six (6) parts with 38 Clauses. Part 1 provides for the Preliminaries, the Short Title, Interpretations, Definitions etc. Part 2 provides for Planning and Management of the Coastal Zone and contains Clauses 4 to 11. Part 3 of the Bill provides for Protection of the Coastal Environment including protection of species, special concern, the use of restricted areas, permits, prohibitions, etc. Part 4 provides for the Functions and the Powers of the Director and the Coastal Zones Inspectors. Part 5 provides for the Creation of Offences related to Coastal Zone. Part 6 provides for the Miscellaneous clauses.

Mr. President, I am actually going to do this in... I'm actually going to jump to Part 4 first because I think that sets the overarching context to the structure of this Bill.

Clauses 26 to 31 speaks to the Powers and functions of Director and the Coastal Zone Inspectors. Part 4, Mr. President, effectively establishes a Coastal Zone Management Unit which has that overarching responsibility for developing and

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implementing the Management Plan. So it starts, Mr. President, with the appointment of a Director who is responsible for the development of a Management Plan and its implementation. And the Director is supported by Inspectors that he/she would appoint and these are designated Public Officers who will assist the Director in the monitoring of compliance and the enforcement of the Act. The Minister may appoint a Coastal Management Ocean Governance Committee and this Committee which would be made up of different stakeholders, both Governmental and non-Governmental, whether it is from the Fisheries Sector, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, Environment, Agriculture, Business, Legal, pull together a team of experts that will advise both the Minister and the Director of different Policy Aspects, issues that needs to be considered. And they, Mr. President, will be supported in that enforcement by the Royal Grenada Police Force.

So now jumping back, we have the establishment of the Unit with those key officers and capacity. Part 2 speaks to the development of the Coastal Zone Management Plan and the establishment of management areas. So Clause 4 speaks to the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan. **“The Director shall prepare for the approval of the Minister, a draft Coastal Management Plan which will comprise policies, strategies and standards that provide for the management and conservation of coastal resources and may include...”** I will just go through some of the key ones.

So standards for environmental impact assessment for development; so, Mr. President, this will be linked to the Physical Planning Unit, the physical planning process so those EIA's that support planning development applications. Standards for water quality in the zonal area, this is essential. It is essential that our waters are healthy, are as clean as possible to be able to sustain the marine life there. Again, for our food security and for our own human health. We bathe in these waters, we use these waters. So ensuring that the quality of the water is at a standard, is monitored, is important.

The provision of public access through and to beaches, and I know one of the Members on 'This Side' will have something to say on that matter. It has always been a contentious issue even though it is clearly understood as part of our rights as Grenadian

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citizens, that our beaches remain open to the public and that we have public access. And one of the areas covered under that management plan and one of the powers enshrined in this Unit is ensuring, determining, that there is public access to our beaches.

Standards for activities, which may affect coastal resources including bed rock removal, coral rubble removal, removal of sea grasses, offshore sand mining, dredging, etc. Standards for the approval and refusal of applications to develop property within the coastal zone area. So again this has a link to physical planning and the role and responsibility of the Unit in terms of those development, application and the approval process that goes with that.

Guidelines for management of any area designated as a restricted area or a prohibited area. I will speak to this in more detail a little later. Guidelines for the establishment of marine protected areas over the conservation of species of special concern, so this will strengthen current MPA Policies and Regulations.

Recommendations for the preservation and management of scenic cultural and natural resources; Mr. President, this goes beyond just at those natural resources. It speaks to things that are scenic, cultural, they fall within that coastal zone area, so this is broad reaching. Recommendations for improving the conduct of research for the purposes of conservation and management of the coastal resources.

Mr. President, the whole area of research, we have all sorts of activities that takes place in our marine space that we don't even know about, research ships, research groups who are working without any oversight, without any permission. The value of some of those resources that we have, whether it is algae's, whether it is minerals, other marine forms, whether it is for neuroseuticals, pharmaceuticals. The research value and the commercial potential of our ocean and coastal spaces has phenomenal potential and it is important that as a sovereign State, we have control and oversight of that.

Standards for early warning systems for coastal zones and my colleague Senator Garraway will speak on this with all of the work that we are doing in terms of tsunami warnings and so forth.

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Clause 5 speaks to public consultation, so, Mr. President, the work of the Director, the work of the Unit, the work of the Minister will not be in a vacuum. All decisions made in terms of that planning process will undergo significant public consultation. So that plan should have the fingerprints of all stakeholders and be reflective of our national interest.

Clause 7, the approval of the draft mentioned, the approval will be by the Minister. As always, Mr. President, that's Minister in Cabinet, it will go to Cabinet for Cabinet's final approval after all of the experts, all of those consultations have been collated.

Clause 8 speaks to the application of the management plan and it speaks to conflicts with other specific Acts, be that the Fisheries Act or be that the Physical Planning and Development Control Planning Act and wherever there is a conflict then it will be the Fisheries Act or the Physical Planning Act that will take precedence.

Clause 10 speaks to the coastal zone management areas in accordance with the management plan and any amendments to the management plan, **“the Minister may by order, designate or remove or amend the designation of an area as a coastal zone management plan”** and this would be based, Mr. President, on the environmental sensitivities or the degrees of the threat vulnerability to a specific area at a specific time. So when those threats are removed, those sensitivities are reduced, then levels of access... those restrictions can be eased when those sensitivities increased, then likewise the levels of restriction or prohibition will increase too. The Management Plan will be reviewed every 5 years, it is a dynamic environment and it is important that, that plan is reflective of where we are at any given time.

Section 3, Mr. President, speaks to the preservation, protection and enhancement of coastal areas and it speaks to of... both sections 12 and 13 speak to restricted and prohibited areas. The same categories of restriction apply to both, however prohibited classifications will apply to those areas of greater sensitivity and being a prohibited area sends a stronger message than that of just a mere restriction and it is through the regulations that will define the distinction between the two. So some of the... **“the Minister may in consultation with the Director and the Fisheries**

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Division by Order designate any portion of the coastal zone as a restricted area”

and I said or a prohibited area. And the areas that are covered within that are the preservation or enhancement of the natural beauty of the area; the protection or the rehabilitation of the flora and fauna found in the area; the protection of items of archaeological and historical interest found in the area, so whether that is areas such as Pearls, whether it is Grand Bay in Carriacou, we have an abundance of Amerindian artifacts; these are national assets and needs to be protected. The promotion of the enjoyment of the public space, the promotion of scientific study and research in respect to the areas and we already spoke of the significance or the significant potential we have to scientific research.

“An Order under subsection (1) shall describe definitively the restricted area and shall include a map or other imagery or description as may be necessary for that purpose. An Order under subsection (1) may restrict or prohibit the removal of species of such flora and fauna or other items from the restricted areas as may be specified in the Order.” So the Order will determine those levels of restriction as... whether as a restricted area or a prohibited area. But again the designation of the site restricted or prohibited will be done under full public consultation.

Clause 15 speaks to the protection of species of special concern and it states that, **“the Minster may by Order, designate species of special concern.”** So if there is a specific specie, take the Grenada Dove, it is under threat, a specific habitat, then that designation for the protection as a specie of special concern can be designated. This is if there is a threat in destruction of that specie habitat or range. Whether it is the over utilisation for commercial, recreation, scientific or educational purposes, disease or predation... credation sorry, the inadequacy of existing regulations or other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

Clause 19 speaks to the prohibition on harvesting of regulated coastal resources. So this, Mr. President, restricts whether it is the trading, importation, exporting of any regulated coastal resources. If you're in breach, you will then commit a crime or you are committing an offence, Mr. President, and it is outlined the penalties for those offences.

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Clause 20 provides for a permit for regulated coastal resources. Mr. President, **“the Minister may on application in the prescribed form and accompanied by the prescribed fees issue a permit for the harvesting, importing or exporting the trade of a regulated coastal resource”**, the buying, selling, trading. So for certain species, for certain coastal resources, it may be permitted at a given time to buy, sell, trade, harvest, import. But that permit may be revoked based on the sustainability of that harvesting and the environmental conditions that exist at that time. And then with regards to that there is an appeals process, so if the permit is revoked and an individual has an issue with it, there is an appeals process.

Mr. President, damage to regulated coastal resources. It's stated here, Mr. President, that **“any person who willfully or neglectfully... negligently...”** (sorry), **“causes physical damage to any coral reef, fish or other coastal resource commits an offence and is liable to summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$600.00 for every square meter of damage or to imprisonment for 5 years or to both.”** Mr. President, this is looking at for example, if a vessel were to run aground and cause significant damage to one of our reefs, so some may think that this is, or, sorry, Mr. President, or if there is somebody who is seeking to commercially exploit those resources, the fine's in place to act as a deterrent, Mr. President, with regard to those offences.

Clause 23 speaks to the removal of vegetation and sand from beaches and states that **“any person who removes or aids in or assist in removing any vegetation, sand, stone, shingle or gravel from any part of the beach commits an offence.”** But there is an exception, Mr. President, and that is for gravel and concrete.

So subclause 3 states that **“notwithstanding section 20, the Gravel and Concrete Emulsion Production Corporation established under the Gravel and Concrete Emulsion Production Corporation Act Chapter 125, is hereby granted permission to remove sand from the coastal zone upon consultation with the Director.”** So Gravel and Concrete currently, where you have areas of excess build up, whether it is in storm drains or areas where there is build up that will cause a problem, Gravel and Concrete have the sole permission to remove that sand, once they receive

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the permission of the Director of the Unit. So an environmental justification would be provided to ensure that it is an environmental interest for that sand in that particular area that is causing a specific issue to be removed.

I have already addressed section 4 so, Mr. President, going on to section 5. Section 5 speaks to offences and penalties. Mr. President, the penalties associated with whether it is the removing of flora, fauna or wreck from a restricted or prohibited area; the harvesting, importing or exporting of regulated coastal resource; buying, selling or trading of regulated coastal resources; the breaking of coral; damage of coral; damage of regulated coastal resources are as follows: for the first summary offence, so this would be an offence that would be brought before a Magistrates Court, is \$5,000.00 or 2 years imprisonment or both up to... For the first indictable offence, that is a matter heard before the High Court Judge, it's up to \$100,000.00 or 5 years imprisonment or both.

For a second summary offence, that increases to \$10,000.00, 2 years imprisonment and for a second indictable offence up to \$200,000.00 or 5 years imprisonment or both. Mr. President, these may sound like severe penalties but it is a reflection of the importance and the value of these coastal resources, we need to protect them, we need to preserve them.

Mr. President, the Judge or the Magistrate has the discretion to differentiate within this, whether it is a summary offence or whether it is an indictable offence and with the boundaries given, whether it is a vulnerable individual who is caught with a bucket of sand, verses a major contractor who habitually removes truckloads of sand or other coastal resources. So that discretion rest with the Courts.

Part 6, the Miscellaneous section speaks to the establishment of the regulations, **“the Minister may make regulations generally for the proper implementation of the provision of this Act”** with respect to the preparation making and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan and with respect to our coastal zone management area. It is the regulations, Mr. President, that will set out the boundaries for the implementation of this Act.

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Then Clause 37 speaks to a transitional period, so **“no person shall be prosecuted for a contravention until the expiration of 6 months from the commencement of this Act.”** So there is a 6 month period between the passing of this Bill and the enforcement of it. So it gives us a chance as a Nation to familiarize ourselves, be aware of the offences that... the penalties, the regulations that this law puts into place. So, Mr. President, in conclusion, this Bill seeks to recognise the significant value of our coastal zone resources and its vulnerability from human threats and the effects of climate change.

This Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill therefore seeks to provide a comprehensive management approach which will preserve these valuable resource, not just for today but for future generations to come. Mr. President, it is for these reasons, I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Question proposed.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thanks to Minister Stiell for his comprehensive presentation there. The aspect of Coastal Zone Management is an important factor. I want to be exposed to your class so I needed the teachers attention **(laughter)**. As much as it is comprehensive, I have a bit of a concern, not in relation to the Bill itself and the intention but from where I sit and my colleague Senator Dunstan Campbell sit also, on the steering Committee on National Sustainability Development Plan 2035, I am trying to figure out how does that fit into what we are trying to do.

In other words, we have been operating on the basis that we have a holistic approach to try to marry a number of these things because I listened to you speaking about linkages. Physical planning, other aspects and we operated on the basis that we need to take a holistic approach with these matters. So sitting here hearing this is causing a bit of a concern. So that is the context in which I am reasoning this. If we are doing a National Sustainable Development Plan, it was on the basis that the individual pieces ought not to or cannot be addressed by themselves, unless there is an urgency

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or an emergency that you need to do as a stop gap measure, but this here is not a stop gap measure. So it is in this context Senator Stiell that I am raising this to basically understand how does that fit into our mandate, the Steering Committee's mandate, the National Sustainable Development Plan. As a comprehensive approach, how does that fit into our mandate?

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

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Dunstan Campbell: Thank you, Mr. President. There are two points I would like to touch on, and the first one is the consultation. I noticed throughout the document you have consultation with the local people population. Based on what we have been seeing up to this point, I think that there is need or there will be need for a review of the consultation process. It seems for example up to this point that what happens is that you come to the community with already... with some conclusions that are there. That is what it seems... perception, and the consultation is just part of the process. We need to work a little harder at this so that at the end of the consultation process the people will feel that, that's theirs, that the product that came out of this belong to the community. I am saying this in particular reference to what is happening now with the establishment of the Marine Protected Area for Gouyave. The consultation process went through and the Fisheries Department thought that they had a draft and ready to go and right now there is chaos because people say, I wasn't consulted, this is not what I said and so forth and so on. So this is something that I... I support the Bill, I support the Bill but the process of consultation has to be looked at.

The second point I want to raise is the management of the Coastal Zone and the Marine Protected Areas. I think that there is a little bit of conflict between what the Government proposes in terms of its 3 for 10, with every 10 persons going you will appoint three or keep. I think the manpower, the manpower for ensuring that these Marine Protected Areas are effective and they do exactly what they ought to do, would need a greater number of persons on the ground. And if you don't have that, then you... the result would be like what we have happening now in Moliniere. Moliniere was

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supposed to be our example of what Marine Protected Areas should be, but look at Moliniere now, the number of guards that are there have fallen down from 6 or 8 to 2 right. And the management to me, it's an embarrassment, because it is the first museum... underwater museum in the world and it is not managed properly. I mean it's really not managed properly and you see that happening. So I think we are going... what is happening now is basically we are going for quantity and not quality and I hope that we can address this... the Bill can address this and I noticed you have the Director and all these Committees that are there. I will like to see them functional, I have concerns about it, but they need to be functional.

And basically, well with that I would support the Bill right, I will support the Bill and I think it... all the points that you have raised, Leader of Government's Business there in terms of the ecological services that it will provide, it should provide. It provides... in fact it is an opportunity for getting young people involved in the management of the resources. Again the one in... the Marine Protected Areas to be established in Gouyave, there are a number of young people who came there and were willing and prepared to help manage or protect the area, but then it seems as if... well of course the Fisheries Department do not have the resources to really keep things together, so if you are to go forward, you need to have boots on the ground so to speak to keep the system going. So I thank you for allowing me to make these few remarks.

Mr. President: Thank you Senator Dunstan. Whose light is it? Senator George, I thought for a moment it might have been Senator Garraway. Senator George.

Sen. the Hon. Kim George: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, like my colleagues on 'Both Sides' I rise in support of the Bill, particularly, Mr. President, as in my opinion it is a Bill that is to be commended for its considered and its structured approach to the preservation, management and enhancement of one of our most precious resources. I think it is important to note, Mr. President, that the Bill really sets out a skeletal legislative framework for a structured process to be followed before the

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final Coastal Zone Management Plan is produced and implemented. I take onboard the concerns raised by Senator André Lewis, but I think the answer to that would be to ensure that the consultation process is really effective so that when the Plan... the final Plan is produced it takes into account the broader picture, because although it is commendable to have an overall and overarching development scheme, I think there is a benefit to be had for looking at specific areas and for structuring a development plan in relation to those specific areas but in reference to the overall Plan.

And in fact I was encouraged by the Bill and its approach because I think it is the sort of intelligent approach to development that we must all aspire to as Grenadians. As we make improvements in the different areas, it is important that we do not lose sight of the need for social development and for development that preserves our heritage as it is for the generations to come behind us and for the generations to come behind them. Because as every Grenadian, I am proud of what we have collectively achieved thus far, but I think for development to be practical and for development to be useful, it has to be structured and considered and when we move and we advance to a certain level we would have to stop and consider where we are and what we have done.

And in particular, I am heartened by the provisions in section 4 (2) and (3) and I I'm just pulling those out as illustrative examples of what I think the Act will achieve. So section 4 subsection (2) says **"the Director may include such maps and descriptive material in the draft management plan as may be necessary to illustrate any strategy policy, standard or designation in the plan with particularity."** So the Director is compelled to take a considered approach to what he must include in the Plan as well... it says, **"the Director shall in the preparation of the draft management plan consult with all affected Governmental Agencies, Statutory Bodies, non-Governmental Organisations and the Private Sector."** So again that addresses, I hope, at least to a certain extent, the concern that you had in terms of whether or not it might be acting in isolation of the overarching plan.

And I was particularly heartened as someone who was born and bred and grew up and still lives in a coastal village, to see the provisions in section 4 subsection (1) (d), which requires that **"the Director shall..."**, it is mandatory, he must when he is

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preparing for the approval of the Minister, the draft Coastal Management Plan it says, **“it may include provisions for public access through and to the beach and other natural areas of the coastal zone.”** And certainly in my Parish, certainly in my village there are concerns and real concerns that traditional areas of access to the beach that I would have had access to as a child for example, gradually over time, is either disappearing or being subsumed into larger areas and so on. And so I think and to touch on the point that you raised as well, Senator Campbell, that, at the public consultations, those are the things that all of us as Grenadians, as citizens should bear in mind, should insist that a conversation is held on. And the collective responsibility is on all of us to make sure those very critical areas are preserved and addressed in the Bill. And so for these reasons, Mr. President, I rise in support of the Bill. I think it is a very timely and necessary initiative and I hope that we all take advantage of it as stakeholders and as citizens at large. Thank you.

Applause

Mr. President: Senator Chris De Allie.

Sen. the Hon Christopher De Allie: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I...

Mr. President: Senator Kim George, your light is on.

Sen. the Hon. Kim George: I'm sorry.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: I also rise on behalf of the Private Sector to give support to this Bill, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill and, Mr. President, I have a few comments as well. First of all I want to state that when we talk about developing the blue economy, as we have all kind of colour economy now, blue being

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one of the ones that refer to... we have the orange, we have the green, we have all kind of strange colours. **(Inaudible comments by a Senator) (Chuckles)**

The blue economy speaks specifically to how we develop and exploit the resources in a productive manner so that our people can benefit and as the mover of the Bill said, we have quite a large proportion of our population that live within very limited range. Was it 2 miles you said? **(Senator Stiell responded in the affirmative)** 2 miles of the coast, so again it speaks to that in particular.

Mr. President, I also like Senator George, was a little bit taken of the approach in this Bill and I consider it a relatively new approach, first time I am seeing it really, where the development of the Plan for implementation comes within the Bill in a context that gives the Director of this particular Unit not much room to maneuver in terms of consultation and that the word 'shall' is used many times in what must be done and what must be you know prepared in order that it go before the Minister to ensure that some of the things that need to be done is done. And I say that to say that, I hear Senator Campbell when he speaks about consultation and buy in by the people and the need for that to be done so that we can get these things to be done easily or accepted so that they could understand why we are looking to do certain things, the way we do it especially if it differs from what traditionally they know or expect and we get challenge to the changed process and that has to be managed in a particular fashion.

But I also want to quickly add that many times when we come to these consultations and we ask for people to come to these consultations they don't turn up. And that sometimes is a problem, and when you come thereafter and you talk about what is going to happen in a particular area because of the sensitivity of a particular fauna or whatever it may be in that area, you get pushed back and then they say, oh well we never knew, we did not hear and so on, and so on. So I say that to say that, when we talk about consultation we try to see how we can get people to come to these things, because that is the only way they understand how it could affect them and affect their livelihood as they go forward.

The other general history I want to raise on the Bill, Mr. President, is, you know we talk a lot about the hydrocarbon potential of this country and what it can bring to our

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development, and I am happy to see this Bill come into effect that would guide the process to some degree as to how we manage the resources of our coastal zones. I do not think, some of the hydrocarbon deposits as they may or may not be, not far-off from our waters and they need to understand how the exploitation of that would now affect this particular Bill that we will pass and it will become Law and how it can affect those possible exploitation of those deposits and it is something that we also need to look at when we... I saw no mention of that here, but generally how the Bill is constructed, it puts a lot of emphasis on what must be done what must be protected.

For example, in this Bill it speaks about sixty meters from the land where there is the need to go out and, for example, do an EIA, the high water mark and sixty meters out, reefs and everything within that zone. So I am now assuming that any environmental impact assessment will now, if you are building on the landside and you are close to the coast, you have to consider doing a sixty meter evaluation from where you are possibly building as to how it could affect the flower and fauna submerged in the seas or around in a particular area. So again, that has implications for us as we go forward and for potential investors, the cost that is going to be associated when we now put these demands on what needs to be done in order that we preserve what we preserve.

The Section 4(1)(d) that Senator George brought up also and the public access to beaches, that is a sensitive one and one that... there is also the section E that deals with the use of vehicles and vehicles on beaches and I mean, I am a frequent visitor of Grand Anse Beach and when I see vehicles on the beach and what it does and how it destroys the sand and pollute the sand, I am one of those people that feel that no vehicle at all should be any way close, and you should have those things put up to protect the beach, but the public access is one. And that is a sensitive one. I think that is one that we need to be very careful as to what we do and how we do it.

There are a lot of people who come to Grenada, buy land in front of a beach and buy probably sometimes to the full extent of the beach and give no care as to public access from the land side. They will tell you where you have access coming from the beach side or from the waterside, they are not denying your access, but there is no

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consideration for that. I believe the language in this one is structured so that there may be some consideration that access to the beach from the landside has to be given consideration. And I think it says, **“Provisions of public access through and to the beach and other natural areas of the coastal zones”**, so it speaks about access “through and to”, alright, which will tend to... I mean the Lawyers could advise differently, but it says to me indirectly that if you have to go through somewhere, it doesn’t necessarily mean coming from the seaside, alright, it has to be from the landside. Because I know of areas in Grenada where **(Inaudible comments by the President)** That’s true, Mr. President, you cannot go through water. And that is why I am raising this issue, because I know investors who come, buy land in front of a beach, block off the beach and they tell you, access is your problem.

Mr. President: There is an on-going issue in St. David...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Yes. **(Inaudible comments by the President)** That’s right. And we have physical development and the mover of the Bill spoke about linking that to that, but this one area, this is one area, both politically as well that could take out a party because our people must have access to our green areas, and what we call... Grand Beach was listed the other day as one of the top beaches in the world, if not in the first three. And you could imagine we’re not getting access or a man buying up property in front a beach and telling you, you cannot come on, it is ridiculous and in very other little private beach areas that we have in Grenada, private area beaches, nice little area beaches, you cannot afford that. And I think the onus must be on the investor, that they know that if they are buying the area in front the beach they must provide, and we are not talking about access where, Mr. President, they give you a little track, that is not the access we are talking about. The access must be proper access. I am not saying a vehicle must be able to drive down, but reasonable access that people could go on to the beach... Some of them have little track and it is just not conducive.

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And I raise this one because I know this one is the one that is sensitive, and I hope when the Regs are developed, something in the Regs speak to that so that we do not create that problem for our people. Because that would be one of the greatest disservice we would do by passing this Bill. Section 19 (4) that speaks to the breakage of coral reefs, and I know the mover of the Bill spoke about if you run aground, but we have a problem with boats when they drop their anchors and they drag, and what it can do to the reefs, and my issue with this is how we police this. And I know Senator Campbell raised the issue of having adequate staffing to deal with this, but I... we have a lot of yachts that anchor, and you know, Mr. President, in recent time that was brought to my attention. When you pass by the fall edge and you look out in that area there, there are many yachts that anchor there. And one person raised the thing with me, do we monitor how they dispose of their waste in that area and because of the density of yachts there, you wonder what could be happening to our reefs if there is no monitoring. And...

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: And I know NAWASA does a certain level of monitoring of the seas and the concentration of buildup of bacteria and so on, but it is not extended to that kind of far reaches. And when we look to pass these in terms of this particular Bill that speaks to how we manage that and how we manage the quality of the waters, the reefs and all the fish and fauna, it obviously must speak to the Policy regarding how yachts anchor, when they anchor, what happens and what they do with their waste. It must, if not we're defeating the whole purpose of the thing. And if we do not have, I mean, for me to be comfortable about monitoring, if I do not have divers on my staff that could go around to see the damage done to reefs, by boats anchoring, I'm not really doing nothing, I cannot charge nobody under the offences in this Bill, because I do not know what is happening, and for me to know what is happening I have to establish a baseline as well. And I do not know if the mover of the Bill, on the practicality of the operation of this Bill, what is being considered for these things.

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Because we cannot say, somebody put damage to the fish and fauna if we do not establish a baseline, we must know.

So for example, Mr. President, I know we does put a ban on seaeggs, and the fishing of sea urchins and seaeggs, the white one in particular, but a friend of mine the other day in St. Lucia was bringing to my attention that seaeggs is an interesting phenoma. When they land in an area, they will eat out all the food and kill themselves. That is how they operate. So there is a need to fish them out, so that you preserve their eating areas, so that they could continue to survive. Now that was only done because of research, a particular student was interested in why we eat all the seaeggs and where they come out and so on, and decided to do a research on their own, and found out that it is important, that you just cannot put a holistic ban. It must be done in a certain manner that preserves the species as well.

I say that to say, Mr. President, that when we do these things, the research element to this and hiring people on the staff to be able to establish what it is we want to do... and you know that comes back to my point earlier, Mr. President, when we go to these agencies and the mover of the Bill, is Minister in Environmental and that Ministry. If it takes us a year to get money to a research and to employ young people that... these two young people that sit as Senator Colleagues, that sit on my side and people of their vintage, to do this kind of research we cannot wait a year to get the money, if we're passing this in six months, or effecting it in six months. We have to start getting money to put in research and develop the areas of the coast, establish baselines, establish all these things to preserve the touristic effect and all of that so that we know when they are damaged, the offences in this Bill could take effect or else we're just coming here as usual, pass a nice Bill, because United Nations and so on, and so on say this is the right thing to do and when we come to do backhoe, we will see it a little later, but at the end of the day we need to operationalise it to our advantage, not anybody else's advantage, our advantage. Because if fishing and our fish stocks as we know is going to be endangered and not managed properly, our tuna line, long line, the boat men would tell you. And the mover of the Bill comes from a family of boats, I know about fishing. The guys will tell you that they have to keep going out further and further

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and there is a problem with the fishing stocks and what we do and we boast about having one of the best quality tuna in our area. And it is important that we find the science behind it to back it. We do too much things by assumption and what we feel, we must have the science and that does not come cheap.

And I only say that to say, Mr. President, that when we do these Bills and I am in full support of the Bill, because I think we must have a regulatory environment to deal with what we're dealing with or else we cannot enforce anything, so the regulation must be there, but we must support it in that way. And finally Mr. President, on the Bill, when we talk about livelihoods and the people on the coast and what they do and buy-in, I hope that the Government, when we put this Bill in place, has a significant part of the Budget for the Unit that is going to be established in Education. I saw a lot about mandate of Education under this Bill and the research and I hope the money is there to do a lot of Education, and this is not consultation now. This is about educating people who live, basically on the sea, when you travel to Grenville on the East Coast and you see where those people live and they're not moving, no matter what you tell them. Or what you tell them about what is happening to the seas and sea rise and we build houses inside, hint at land for them and they're not moving, because as far as they know they born there and that is what they know. They grow up drinking sea water, you understand, and that is what they know. And if we do not educate and change the education to a level to their understanding, to say that gentlemen and ladies, if you continue to living here you will die; that is as drastic as it has to get. Because when you look at the invasion of the seaweed, we still do not really understand why. There are so many things that we talk about regionally, what we could do with it, how we can process it; still do not really understand why it is happening. We talk about it coming from Africa and change in tides and all of that, and all of that, but we still do not really know if it is temperature rise, if it is sea rise, what it is happening. We don't because we are not doing the research... **(inaudible comments by a Senator)**... as what it ought to be. And we know it is a genetic spinoff, yes, but we do not know what is the real cause, why it is to be so prolific, in the oceans at a particular time and all of that.

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So I say that, Mr. President, so that we could give effect to these things. I am tired coming here and passing these nice Bills, and at the end of the day we cannot operationalise as we ought to. And it's for our own protection and benefit and development and growing the economy; all the good things that we like to say and we ought to say. So I will like to see that when we do this that the mover of the Bill could guarantee us in this House and the population, that significant resources would be spent in research, establishing baseline and education. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator De Allie. When Senator Stiell spoke, my mind drifted to the Physical Planning Act, and there is a Physical Planning Act. But you drive around the country; the density of vehicles on our roads have increased, I cannot tell you the percentage, but do you know, the space for erecting sidewalks for pedestrian traffic is shrinking daily and daily as people are building structures right on the road, all right. There is a major private school, in fact it is one of two private secondary schools in this Nation and that school is located in Belmont, all right. The school now has several hundreds of students, but the building that is taking place provides no sidewalk facility for the kids. And that is building that is taking place now in the face of Physical Planning Laws. And I've had the occasion, and many occasions to call Physical Planning and all they can tell me is they do not have the resources. I just thought I would, because my mind ran in that direction, as both of you, both the presenter and the rebutter on the Bill... most occurring. Senator Cadet.

Sen. the Hon. Judd Cadet: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I just want to add my thoughts on this Bill. As a student at the St. George's University and as a Member of Education, Outreach and Conservation (ECO), I just thought that I should share my sentiments. Mr. President, Costal Zones are among the most productive areas in the world, offering wide variety of valuable habitat and ecosystem services that has always attracted humans and humans' activities. However, Costal Zones are also among the most vulnerable areas to climate change, natural hazards, risks including

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flooding, erosion, sea level rise as well as extreme weather events. These impacts are far reaching and are already changing the lives and livelihood of coastal community.

Mr. President, in 1993, the Malaysian Scientist, Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, published a scientific paper on the Essential Elements of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. He highlighted in the paper that **“conventional sectorial management is inefficient in addressing the complex management issues of the coastal zones. These issues are often cross-sectoral in nature, wherein the activity of one sector adversely affect the development of others.”** Mr. President, **“coastal management issues has become a major threat to our economy, sustainability and environmental quality.”** And as was stated by our Leader of Government’s Business, we have our Ports, our Hotels, our Airports on the coast and therefore, Mr. President, it is important that we look towards an integrated coastal zone management, which will contribute to the sustainable development of coastal zones by the application of what we call the Ecosystem Based Approach. And that is simply, Mr. President, is, we have this term now that we use in ecology, called Environmental Economics, or Ecological Economics, by simply understanding the value of the resource that you have and as the Member of... the Senator that represent the Private Sector said, that it is important for us to do research to understand what we have, what is the result of such activities, what is the cause of these activities so that our approach to solving these issues can be more scientific.

When you use the Ecosystem Based Approach and the Ecosystem Based Model, it gives you that understanding of the value of what you have, knowing that, for example, that if your coastal area, it may be ten yards, let us say, ten meters or ten kilometres, whatsoever will be damaged, you will know how to plan accordingly. And that is why when we talk about what is in the Plan here, it have the drafting the Coastal Zone Management Plan, I am saying that the standards for Environmental Impact Assessment for development that may affect the conservation and management of coastal resources. So here we are establishing a standard, and knowing, a public standard, now that the public would have access to knowing what the standard that would be for the Environmental Impact Assessment. As well as, Mr. President, it also

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talks about, the proposal for improvement of public education and for community empowerment through public participation in the management of coastal resources. Mr. President, this is very important because, if we have to ensure that this is very successful, the public buy-in is important. And therefore, they must understand the value of the coast, understand the value of these resources, understand how their behaviour will be affecting the depletion of some of our valuable coastal resources. So it is important that we run a Nationwide education campaign to ensure that our people understand how their behaviour can influence the actions, or influence negative actions that can affect us as a people.

Mr. President, one of the goals of sustainable development is to provide current and future needs of human society while protecting species, ecosystem or other species of biodiversity. But, Mr. President, we always have to find a balance when talking about sustainable development and sometimes when we talk about sustainable development, we sometime look at it in isolation that we will look at it from the environmental perspective alone. But when we're talking about sustainable development, we should also look at it from the perspective of human needs. It is said that one of challenge in achieving sustainable development is poverty, is that how do one see the need to not eat, or not fish when they have family to feed and the ability to ensure that people can find employment, when implementing such policies, we have to ensure that we look at the people that would be affected in this. And as a result, Mr. President, I am seeing that we are involving the people, we are incorporating them in developing this Coastal Management Plan.

Mr. President, as well as, this Plan will help us to achieve and promote the Sustainable Development Goals. Loudly, looking at this Bill, I am seeing that goal number twelve, Responsible, Consumption and Production, that we will be able to achieve that or promote this Sustainable Development Goal, number twelve. Goal number thirteen, Climate Action, ensuring that we build a resilient, ensuring that our infrastructure is resilient, we have social resilience as well, so that we can prepare ourselves for the effects of climate change. Life below water, protecting life below water as well; our action, what we do on land can seriously affect life below water, that is Goal

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number 14. This as well is taking in consideration in this coastal management Bill. Life on Land, because what we do on land, as mentioned, can seriously affect the coast.

So, Mr. President, I see this Bill as a very important Bill that we must support. It is very comprehensive and unique in the sense that it addresses almost every step of how this Bill ought to be successful, including the public consultation that... in Section 5, here, subsection (3), **“for the purpose of subsection (2), the Minister shall cause to be published a Notice in the Gazette and in at least one newspaper, notifying the public of the data consultation, which shall be not less than two weeks before the date so appointed”**, giving time and letting the public know about those public consultations, so that they can share their input on that draft plan. Also Mr. President, what I have noticed is that for any amendments to be made, again, it must go back to the public that, the Director cannot just decide in the morning that he is just going to amend the Plan. But if he has to do so, he must go back to the stages of Section 4 to Section 7, ensuring that the people, again, has a buy-in, the stakeholder has a buy-in into this Plan.

So, Mr. President, I see this Bill as a great Bill, one that will serve the interest of this country. The environment is very important. Today we may have, tomorrow we may not, because of the growing effects of climate change. So it is important that we pass Laws and implement Policies that will protect our environment and our resources. And with that said, Mr. President, I give full support to this Bill.

Mr. President: Senator Winston Garraway.

Sen. the Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to give my support to the passage of this Bill. And it is a response to Government's desire to balance the approach of economic development to the sustainable use of its natural resources. As my fellow Senators would have said earlier, this is timely, this is necessary, and this is important for the further protection and development of this piece of rock we call Grenada.

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Only last week, Mr. President, I had an opportunity to visit the east coast of Suriname, and to look at the degradation as a result of one, climate change and the impact based on bad cultural practices, so vast amount of shore line was destroyed. One, salt water intrusion, because the practices that was implemented by human beings, of course, created the environment for the mangrove and other coastal habitat to be destroyed. So large areas of lands were washed into the sea and the sea was just eating into the coastline of that great Nation. And there is this one doctor, Nibaul, who had an idea and said listen, we can save the land, and what he did, without the support from the resident, because they thought he was losing it, he starting building artificial reefs, planting sticks and so forth in the area, because he said, the sticks will act as the root of the mangrove and to trap sediments and overtime we will see the lands being regained. And to prove the point, on one half of the shore line, he put in the barriers of the sticks or the artificial reefs and the other half of the shoreline, he did nothing. And to prove the point that it could work and we were there as testimonies to look at what he has done and to share to the world that the protection of your coastal zone is extremely important, not just for the marine life, not just for protecting it for protecting it sake, your coastal area, but also ensuring that you are preserving something for your future generation and that is what I think we would have missed over time. So what we do in land during our farming time and so forth, if it is not done correctly, it will impact what we have on the coast and the reef that is there to help to break the force of the waves will be destroyed and we could very well start losing our coast.

Grenada is only one hundred and thirty-three square miles, and if we do not implement measures now to safeguard our coast, we could be losing it and think of the impact for our future generations. But this is a part of the bigger overarching scheme of this Government to fix this economy and to ensure that we leave a lasting memory for our future generation, that they know that we have made our mark in protecting what we have for them. That's the important thing here, making sure what we do here, secure the lands for our people, and we have said it. Ninety percent of our population is on the sea coast, our road network, communication network, just name it, everything within two

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miles of the sea coast. I think it was in 1990, we had the storm surge and coastal defence was washed out on the western coast. Quite a lot had to be invested or spent to build coastal barricade. But by nature the sea does that with various reefs and so forth, but if our practices affect it, we will then have to find additional resource to protect the coast. So, Mr. President, what we are doing here today is speaking to ensuring that we protect this land, but most importantly, whatever investment would be had, whatever development that would be had, would be done according to the rules and guidelines that is specified in this integrated Coastal Management Zone Bill, that is what is important.

And we're all about ensuring that we create investment, we create opportunities so that, one, folks will come in and invest into this country, two, create employment for our people, and three, the country will be thriving. So people would stay here and work and develop. But if we do not do it in a coordinated effort, of course, there will be more money. If we do not do it in a coordinated effort, it is like we would be fighting against each other. So when I look at the sort of consultation that has been done, and most importantly, working with all the major players, so we have the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to ensure that whatever building or infrastructure that is established, is done according to the specifications. We have the Planning Department to ensure that Permits are granted and whatever is done is done according to established norms. The Ministry of Tourism manages cultural heritage in our Coastal Zone, so they have a very important role and stake to play in ensuring what happens is according to the specification. And of course, the Land Use Division, Ministry of Agriculture and the likes. Our people need to follow the practices and follow the guidelines because as we said, whatever you implement or you put on the soil into the mountain area it will get down into the sea at some point in time. But, most of all, Mr. President, as I have said, this is about development, this is about protecting this land, and Grenada would be better off as a result of passing this Integrated Coastal Management Zone Bill, 2019. With these few words, I want to give my full support to the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator Garraway. Senator Williams.

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Sen. the Hon. Cathisha Williams: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, in light of the presentations before me there is not much that I can add. But, I just wanted to point out briefly two (2) important aspects of this Bill, and in doing so, lend my support...

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Cathisha Williams: Mr. President, I'm glad you are flexible. I hope the Members of the House feel the same way, although I'm doubtful of that. But, yes, Mr. President, thank you.

I just wanted to point out two (2) important aspects of the Bill as I lend my support to it. One, it's an integrated approach. We do have Legislation currently which addresses some aspect of environmental protection, in particular, marine protection and that is addressed by the Fisheries Act. We also have a Beach Protection Act, which is being repealed by this Act because this Bill subsumes the provisions of the Beach Protection Act, but this Act is overarching. It not only addresses our marine resources which would account for the fauna and our beaches, but also our resources on the land that is approximate to the coast. So, it covers a larger area of environmental protection and subsumes all of that. So, I think it's important for persons to know that this is integrated. It builds upon the Fisheries Act, and it also provides for areas that are not mentioned in the Fisheries Act, such as the protection of flora on our coast.

I think it is important to mention also, in terms of the priority of the Act, that this Act takes precedence over preceding Acts except, permit me, Mr. President, **(inaudible comments)** the Gravel and Concrete is one aspect, I'm trying to find the exact section. Yes, thank you, thank you, Senator Judd. So, section 8, in particular, subsection (2) and (3). In subsection (2), it says that **"in the case of any conflict between the Management Plan and any Fisheries Scheme under the Fisheries Act in respect of the living resources of the Coastal Zone outside a restricted area or prohibited area the Fisheries Scheme shall prevail."** So, where there are resources not covered under the restricted or prohibited areas the Fisheries Scheme shall prevail. That's the

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only exception. And also, with regard to the Physical Planning and Development Control Planning Act, this Act shall not be construed as authorising any development not approved under the Planning Act. So, this Act takes into account everything, it's a holistic developmental approach, a holistic approach toward environmental protection, and I think it's important for that to be noted.

Secondly, Mr. President, I'm impressed by the collaborative nature of this Act, specifically referring to the number of public consultations throughout the process of developing the Management Plan. There is a consultation process not only in the initial aspect of the drafting of the Plan, but also in the amendment of the Plan. And, what I like about this Bill is that it doesn't set out the regulations in concrete, but it allows, it allows for the Director or the authorised officer to continually develop the Plan, amend the Plan, and change the Plan to fit the changing circumstances and the changing environment. So, this really lays out the framework for the continuing development and growth of this Management Plan to suit our environmental circumstances as time goes on. In that way it's a living, breathing Act and one that can react to our changing circumstances and that is an aspect of this Act that I am very pleased about also, Mr. President.

So, I just wanted to point out those two (2) aspect of the Act, the integrated approach and the collaborative approach/breathing, living approach to environmental protection. And, with that, Mr. President, I would like to express my support for the passage of this Bill. Thank you. **(Applause)**

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Mr. President: So, Senator Stiell, it is now for you to proceed.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Okay, Thank you, Mr. President, and I am pleased with the, not just the amount of comments that have been shared on the presentation of this Bill, but also the quality of those contributions, very, very, good. And, it's clear that this Bill and what it's trying to achieve has actually sparked interest in all of us, and I

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think it's fair to say that there is broad consensus that we're doing the right thing here with this Bill, Mr. President. What is important to note that this is just the start, the Legislation, Policy, is just the framework. We need to fill it in and the comments from Senator De Allie on the operationalisation of it and dealing with practicalities is spot on. We have a start, but it's how we build this out moving forward. Albeit the first time, this resides in our Ministry and we have a lot of work, will have a lot of work to do in terms of fleshing this out, and it will take time. It will take a significant amount of time to get to ideally where we want to be, but it come back to, this is a start and a very good start.

The concerns raised by Senators Lewis and Campbell about linking this to the National Development Plan. There is no Management Plan yet, so it's on the books, it is going to be at the heart of operationalising this. And, I would envisage that when we start that process of appointing a Director and the work to develop that Plan, highly consultative and I'll come back to the comments about consultations in a second, but it has to dovetail neatly into that National Development Plan. They can't be in conflict. So, I see this as an opportunity. I see that the two (2) should be highly complementary. So, as work starts, the head start is with the National Development Plan. So, I would envisage that through that consultation process and process of developing the Coastal Zone Management Plan, that our National Development Plan would be a key reference that will infuse into this.

The comments about consultations, Senator De Allie said half the time people don't turn up, that is very true, but I think part of the problem is we keep calling on the same people all the time. It's the same people and part of that is a reflection of our small society, but I think also it's a reflection that we need to reach out further. I think there are persons that we are not engaging, persons, stakeholders who have significant value to add, but we're just not turning them on, we're not engaging at the right level. So, I think further work needs to be done, and it's not just for this, it's for all things that we do in terms of development and that outreach consultation. But, a potential solution to this having... and Senator Cox raised it with me privately that there should be some sort of validation process. So, it's not just the case as saying, well, we met with one hundred and twenty (120) stakeholders and this consensus, we came with the ideas

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you know set in our heads already and who turned up, who didn't turn up, we're forward. There should be some sort of validation process as we go through this, because I think genuinely and especially a Plan of this nature which will touch with ninety percent (90%) of our population living in these areas. I think everybody would have a say and it's important that what we do come up with, we can square that circle of, as I said, doing what is in the Nation's best interest.

So, in conclusion, Mr. President, as I said, I think this is a very good start. The Policy is a good one, the Legislation is good, it covers all of the areas we would want it to, but it is a frame and that frame we need to build out, it will take time to do this thing properly and it will be challenging. But, it goes to the heart of our development, and as Senator Garraway said, what we are trying to achieve as Government is find that very difficult balance between economic development and environmental stewardship; the two go hand in hand, the two can complement one another, if it's done properly, if it's not done properly then the two would be in conflict and it is our responsibility, it's not just as Government, but I think because it touches all of us, it is our national responsibility to see how we can make this work. So, Mr. President, for all of those reasons, I commend this Bill for its second reading.

Mr. President: Thank you, Senator Stiell.

Question put and agreed.

Bill read a second time.

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 Part by Part.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

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Mr. President: Honourable Members, this House now resumes, and it is my duty to report that we went through the Bill Part by Part and with the exceptions of the corrections of some typos there has been no amendments, substantive amendments to the Bill. Senator Stiell.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: I beg to move the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 16 - Public Business.

Item 17 - Adjournment.

Mr. President: Senator the Honourable Redhead.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say I'm not prepared to go until 9 o'clock tonight. That would be very difficult.

Mr. President, I would not be long as before as usual. I am a bit tired. But, Mr. President, I want to reply and respond to the issue which I raised, Mr. President, the NAWASA issue. I raised this issue sometime in April, on April 24th to be exact. I called for an investigation into the water problem at St. Patrick, Mr. President. At first, it was said to me that the problem was with the Storage Unit. We later learnt, Mr. President,

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that it was not with the Storage Unit at Mt. Reuil, but, in fact, it was with the line, the pipeline, which connected Sauteurs and Marli, those particular areas. NAWASA has within, Mr. President, in the last month or so begin rectifying that problem. And, many of us can attest to the fact that we see projects ongoing up at St. Patrick, primarily High Street, Marli and the Sauteurs area. I think that replacement has been completed so far.

(Senator Simon Stiell rose)

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: Mr. President, sorry, I'm not sure I actually understood that response. Because from NAWASA, NAWASA they tested thoroughly there was no water quality problem, so, if you're saying you identified the problem and they're resolving it; there was no problem. So, I think we're being misled here or I'm misunderstanding...

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Mr. President, on what grounds is the Member standing?

Mr. President: Well, I'm trying to figure out...

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: I'll address it, but he is misleading the public, he's misleading the public. I'll address it.

Sen. the Hon. Ron. Redhead: Yes, Mr. President, tell the Member to take a seat, I'm getting to that. So, Mr. President, I am saying that this is what...

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Mr. President: The Chair doesn't take instructions, it's the other way around.

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Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: I apologise, Mr. President, understood. So, let's move on, in the interest of time. So, Mr. President, I am getting to that point to which I want to really talk in depth about what I have discovered thus far because Mr. President, I called for an investigation in accordance with section 6 of the NAWASA Act. Right. And, the two (2) Government Senators in particular, Senator Stiell and Senator Garraway sought to respond in a way and downplay what I said.

We called for the investigation, Mr. President, it was not forthcoming, Mr. President, quite after June. In fact, I had to do investigations on my own. And, I want to report to the House what I found out. So, the problem which I reported, Mr. President, in relations to the health concerns, we were able to get external assistance, well, within the Region in fact, and diagnose this problem, Mr. President, outside of the numbers that NAWASA gave me, after the fact that I had to make post on Facebook to get the information from NAWASA. That's the most important thing I want to state there. They said that they did the investigation, Mr. President, but we didn't receive any information of that investigation. So, we were able to diagnose that the possibility of what was reported with the health concern could have been a case of excess sulphur in the water and it was, Mr. President, as a result of the narrow diameter of the pipe, right, Mr. President, which caused build up of the sediments and eventually, Mr. President, that was flowing through lines.

Secondly, Mr. President, we have asked NAWASA for the lead test. They have reported to us that they don't do lead test and they have also reported that lead pipes was stopped manufactured quite in the 19 something. We later learnt, Mr. President, that the equipment to test for lead in the country, up until the time was not working. Secondly, to that, Mr. President, it was only up until 2014 that pipes which had lead sediments, in addition to copper among other things, were stopped produced and that happened as a result of the problem in the United States of America, Mr. President, where a similar concern or a lack of neglect on the path based on what President Obama reported with the water system, similar problem occurred. So, we were able to learn that...

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(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: So, precisely, in other words, if it was stopped produced...

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Right. So, Mr. President, in other words, if the production of pipes was stopped in 2014, did we root up all the pipes throughout the country and replace them? No. Precisely. So, Mr. President, that particular line, for example, has been in existence for a very long time from what we discovered.

Thirdly, Mr. President, we were able to discover that the metres that NAWASA was utilising was, in fact, in some kind of way... now NAWASA would be the best people to explain that because currently they are engaged in a replacement project of the meters and we can confirm that if it is necessary, that it was accumulating dirt and taking that dirt back into the line, somehow. So, it's not a cause, Mr. President, that it will kill anybody and I just want to go back to the sulphur, the excess sulphur issue because when we raised the issue, we made mention of the effects. And, any one of us here can research it. We talked about the stench, it's called, in fact, the most specific term, 'rotten egg scent', then we talked, Mr. President, about the diarrhea, we talked, Mr. President, about the constipation, but which is derived from dehydration. So, any one of the Members, Mr. President, can go and they can research that.

Now, as I have said, I am not outside of the ambits of the Law. Section 6, the duties and responsibilities of the NAWASA Act, dictate, Mr. President, that NAWASA investigate, but it only do not dictate that they investigate, it also dictates, Mr. President, that they provide to consumers a satisfactory level and quality of water. And, if Mr. President, for example, I am paying for water in La Borie, the quality of water that I am getting in La Borie, cannot be brown and I am being told it is okay. That is, Mr.

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President, in my view, grounds for maybe some lawsuit or some sort of thing. And, we don't want to go down that road.

So, I'm just saying, Mr. President, in relation to this thing, it's much bigger than what was said and how the 'Government Side' reacted. It is a cause for concern and it is in my view in the national interest. This is why I raised it. I didn't accuse anybody. So, to try to paint me as if I attacked NAWASA out of venom and spite, I don't have that. I don't even know half of the people there. But, Mr. President, as a Member of the Legislature in the Senate, we essentially have to be the oversight. This Authority, in particular, NAWASA, is under the Line Ministry of the Ministry of Works. What I am saying is, if we have concerns, we must raise it and certainly in accordance with the Law, call for the subsequent investigation.

So, Mr. President, I really would not reply to the individuals, but I have raised this issue and I have evidence. I have strong backing, Mr. President. We know of the situation there, we believe that it is being solved now and take this for example, NAWASA had to secure a loan, Mr. President, to be able to carry out all of these duties, outside assistance from the Line Ministry or the State. So, we must know and take these things.

Mr. President, essentially we raised this issue to make the call, particularly, for the establishment of a National Water Board. In Grenada today, NAWASA is the one testing and passing its own test. It is unsatisfactory in our view to have a system like that. There must be a middleman to dictate for example, whether or not NAWASA is actually complying. They can't just be reporting to the Minister, and the Minister report to them. That is something, a cause for concern because when we raised this issue firstly, we noticed a lot of manipulation of the facts and information and shady operations that we were not satisfied with. So, Mr. President, I just want to make that absolutely clear, we are not satisfied with how the Government responded. In fact, when we raised the issue, I was very pleased to hear Senator Stiell said that he will look into the matter **(Time bell rung)**... that he would have looked into the matter one time.

Mr. President, secondly, and very quickly, I just want to raise an issue that you are familiar with. Now, with this one, you don't need rocket science to check into it.

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Now, recently at the Bus Terminal there was a construction of a wall. Mr. President, you are aware that the staff certainly at your time as President General in TAWU, the question, Mr. President, I'm referring to carbon monoxide poisoning at the Bus Terminus. It's not to raise any alarm, nobody is dying or anything like that, but Mr. President, as the busmen use the Terminus, part of the issue is the circulation of air at the Bus Terminus. So, I have noticed recently a construction of a wall now added in proximity to the Terminus, Mr. President, almost as if now it's going to squeeze the air into one place.

I use the Bus Terminus, and every time I go there, in fact, it's getting worse, you're feeling extremely pressured and so on and sweaty in some of the buses. Right. If they don't put on the AC well, you know, crapaud smoke your pipe, but, Mr. President, that is an issue that I believe we should look into and observe because we can use, or should have used, for example, maybe an extractor fan or two, so that you could extract the air, the carbon monoxide air that is trapped beneath, well, on the first floor of the Bus Terminus to try and ventilate the area a bit better.

And, thirdly, Mr. President, I want to raise an issue that some parents have asked me to raise. Now, they have expressed concerns over the cost of books. They have said that the cost of books have within at least in the last two/three years, increased substantially. They would like to know if it is a case that well, who really dictates for example the syllabus or the books that are used because if every year you have to... I looked at a video very, very recently in fact, and a parent was explaining a particular textbook, mathematics, the cover is different, the colours that are used are different, but the information is the exact same, in fact, even the Author is the exact same. And, what some of the parents are saying is that they have to be purchasing new books every time. So, in the past where you would have hand me downs and you could refurbish them you can't do that as easy as possible. And, it's costing them a great deal. So, Mr. President, that's an area because we talk a lot about the education. That is an area that I believe we should look into.

Again, Mr. President, in relation to the water issue, we didn't raise the thing out of context. It's within the ambits of the Law, what we are calling for is the establishment of

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a National Water Board. NAWASA cannot be the one testing itself and passing a test. So, I have nothing personal against anybody at NAWASA, but I think, Mr. President, as the Member with responsibility for Climate Resilience would agree, access certainly to clean drinking water is and it should be always a priority. Thank you.

Mr. President: Senator Christopher De Allie.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: Yes, Mr. President, thanks. I didn't plan to talk on the adjournment, but seeing that Senator Redhead made some issues with water, and I sit in my other capacity on that particular Board, I think there are some things I need to clear up for his own edification, that he seems to be misleading the public on.

So, let's start with the issue of sulphur in the water and lead in the water, and so on and so forth. What is important to note, Mr. President, that whenever we're talking about those chemicals in water, if they exist in our water by the way, is the concentration levels that exist for it to be harmful to anybody. You cannot talk about a chemical being present and not talk of the level of concentration.

He just talked about carbon monoxide in the first level in the bus centre. If there is wind flow moving the carbon monoxide, it cannot be harmful to people, it's the concentration and the build up and your level of exposure to that particular concentration of that chemical that could impact a health issue. So, you can't divorce the two.

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: So, right, but that is the facts, that is the scientific facts, concentration affects your health. And, when you talk about lead, and you need to talk about the parts per million. And, I'm not disputing that NAWASA may have old lead pipes in the system, but the issue is, if the lead has to leak or leach into the water, we need to understand at what concentration levels because our body

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requires some level of lead for its chemical balance, it's when you have lead in a particular high concentration level, it will cause health issues.

When we go back to the sulphur issue and he is talking about stench, stench from sulphur comes from a gas called hydrogen sulphide H₂S, and you could only get a buildup of the H₂S when there is a breakdown and deterioration of bacteria in the system and the H₂S have to build up to a concentration level that will affect you and it has to be in a closed system. If it is in a liquified system as with what he is talking about in water, it is not H₂S, it dissolves and become an acid. Right. And, the issue is whether the sulphuric acid concentration or a lesser form of the acid is in concentrations that will affect you. Right. I just want to talk about that.

Then he talked about, he talked about the meters, NAWASA has no project currently in place for replacement of meters, you're wrong my brother. NAWASA has an ongoing replacement of metres that are faulty. And, we have meters in the system from time to time developed issues, whether it be from dirt accumulating in the mechanism to record what is going on, and as a result, we have to change out the meters or some other malfunction in the meter, something might break in the meter, but we have no single project in place for replacement of meters. So, that is incorrect as you state it.

Brown water, etcetera in the system, Mr. President, an Authority like NAWASA, whenever we have breaks in the system, whether it be a six-inch pipe to a four-inch pipe to a half-inch pipe depending on where it breaks some dirt will get into the system. There are times when the water level, if we have too much rain... in NAWASA, too little and too much is a problem. If we have too much rain, we get sedimentation of the dams and when we start putting out the water and treating the water to go out, we will get some brown water in the system, we'll have to shut down the system and wait until the settlement and the sediments settle off. If we have too little and we draw too much from the dam, we'll draw at a level where sediments may be and you may get brown water in the system. Again, we have to shut down the system and deal with it. But it is not a situation where NAWASA will go out and produce brown water. It affects our system. When we can't send water in the pipe, we're losing money, it's a simple fact as

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that. So, we don't want to send bad water in the system or discoloured water in the system.

The last thing about test and NAWASA can't test himself and we need to get a Water Board and so on. What Senator Redhead is not understanding, NAWASA don't test water and do their test that we do by vike-vie. We have international standards that we follow. So, even though we are doing the test ourselves, the issue is, what standards are we following? Are we following our own made up standards? Or are we following the International Standards that require the water to be at a particular level when it comes to Coliforms and other bacteriologic levels? And, we also have systems in place, if we pick up that there is a concentration of Coliforms that is outside the International Standards, and by the way we use International Standards dictated by United Nations, so that our quality of water meet International Standards. And, when we test, we test to ensure that those levels, that set by those International Organisations, we are below and if we go above, we have protocols and systems in place to deal with the issue.

So, the thing about having an independent person to do the test, yes, you may say, that may bring more transparency to the system, but the same independent people would use WATTs Standards to test. They still have to go back to the International Standard that NAWASA using. They're not going to no other standards because that is the system set for all Water Authorities in the Region and Worldwide. There are International Standards that we all have to test our water towards.

So, probably Senator Redhead wasn't clear on certain things, and just to deal with the issue that he raised concerning the people, I think it was in... **(Inaudible comment)** When NAWASA did the investigation and unfortunately, I have the report here, so. We went and spoke to the people and none of them reported what Senator Redhead reported. We also provided the report to Senator Redhead on the 13th of May, dealing with the issue and we did tell him that we don't test for sulphur in the system and he said he will get back to us; apparently he didn't get back to us on this. So, there are issues when it comes to what it is he is raising, and of course, Mr. President, there is the issue of lead and what lead does as I raised before, and we also have to say that

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lead doesn't naturally occur in our system. So that, for example, you may argue that when your runoff comes from the rain and it falls and it goes into a dam system, you may say that okay, it picks up lead along the way and we have high concentrations of lead in the system because all our water comes from run-off with the exception of Carriacou and so on where we're now doing 'desal, but the majority of Grenada's water comes from runoff. But, we have no major area in Grenada with lead deposits that we know of and we aware of. And, where we take our water, way up from high elevations, we know that the quality of the water there in the river systems are some of the best water that we could get.

So, I don't know if that helps. I hope that Senator Redhead is a little more informed and I'm just told here that our standards also meet WHO standards for testing of water. So, I'm just saying that to say that, unfortunately, I had to stand up to talk about this one because we do have, and just to be clear, Mr. President, and I'll sit, Mr. Husbands said that they have no lead pipes in their system, none, he just clarified that to me here.

(Inaudible comments Mr. President)

Mr. President: ...of the world and the installation and the use of lead pipes. Right, because the production of lead pipes could be happening, but whether or not we are installing lead pipes or whether or not we had lead pipes installed and that there are still lead pipes in the system are two completely different issues. One don't necessarily lead to a conclusion of evidence of the other. So, that's why I sought that clarity.

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: Mr. President, I just want to say that I would not seek to pick a fight with the Representative of the Private Sector, I think...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: No, it's not a fight, it's clarification.

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Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: I think he clarified a particular issue. But, Mr. President, let me just say, the issue with the sulphur what I understood...

(Inaudible comments made by President)

Sen. the Hon. Ron Livingston Redhead: I understand, but I would just quickly clear that up, don't worry, don't worry. Mr. President, from what we discovered and I'm not accusing NAWASA of that happening, I'm saying these were possibilities. Now, they have said to me that they investigated a particular area, but the same people down at Sauteurs, they expressed concerns about the quality of water just the same. They went to a particular area during the day when nobody as much is at home and they spoke with somebody. I don't know that one person or two people alone could have just say, well, we didn't get nothing, is just like the lady at Mt. Rich, right. So, Mr. President, what I'm saying is that from what we heard is that when the chlorine mix with the sulphur, it sort of accentuate it. The Peggy's Whim Dam was used for that line in High Street first, and Peggy's Whim anybody who knows it has a lot of sulphuric concentration and so on around the area. So, I'm not accusing to say that people putting that there. When it was moved to the Mt. Reuil dam, which utilises a lot of chlorine in it, Mr. President, we were told that it could have been combined to an extent and it could have helped to accentuate the effects or impact of what sulphur water would do.

I have never said that it is something that NAWASA is causing, but what I ask them to do was to look into it because people had expressed concerns over the quality of the water and they wanted to know that it was safe, Mr. President, to consume among other things. They have done that practically, but, Mr. President, I am saying that where we thought the issue was with the dam, it was not, and in fact, Mr. President, there was an issue with the diameter of the line which could have helped to contribute to that in terms of the buildup, Mr. President, of sediments within the line etcetera. So, when I expressed the concern about the lead, it is not to say that lead water is running the line. It is only to say that because of that because of that build up or because of the

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blockage of some sort of the line, that is a possibility. That's what I said, in fact, that's what I have written here, possibilities. I never accused them of it, but I'm just saying these were scenarios what I found out in my whole course of investigating the issue separate to what NAWASA provided. Thank you.

Mr. President: It is necessary as we build the new and youthful group of Parliamentarians, there must be some flexibility, but on the adjournment, it is not really a debate in the way in which I have allowed it to continue. But, as I said it's all encouragement. But, you see we have to be, we have the liberty to speak, but we also have the responsibility to speak, responsibly. As I have said before, when we are discoursing in the House we are not just speaking between ourselves, the Nation listens to this discussion and if truth be told, more people listen to the Senate than they listen to the House and that's just a fact and there are good reasons for it. So, because we are speaking not to ourselves and to others, we have to be responsible in the things that we say. Now, when you put forward a proposition as a possibility, that is something completely distinct from what a reality might be. All of us can die right now, yes, but if that was to occur it will trigger an investigation. So, the possibility of having lead pipes or the possibility of lead pipes being still produced does not mean that there are lead pipes in Grenada. And, when we speak like that because we are speaking to many people on the outside, people can have a wrong interpretation of what is being said and that is something that, you know, we need to guard against.

The other matter is, on subjects like these it would be best to come to the House by way of a Motion because by way of a Motion you could talk as long as you wish and if you are the mover of the Motion, you get to talk twice. So, you can expand on all of your points, but when you come under the adjournment, the time for the adjournment is how many minutes **(Ag. Clerk responds to President)**, it's ten (10) minutes. Now, I gave you more than ten (10) minutes because it's a learning process. I mean you've raised a concern, and I think it's a concern which people should be concerned, I drink water too, I'm not a bottle water person, most of the water I consume is NAWASA's water. Right. I'm not in the trendy thing of all these bottle waters and so on. Fellahs,

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I'm going into Andall and guys would ask me for five dollars (\$5), and when I give them the five dollars (\$5), I who drinking NAWASA water, they are using my five dollars (\$5) to buy bottled water, but it's a trend, it's a trendy thing. So, I am just making that point again to be light hearted. But, I just thought that I would make that interjection because then it leads to a debate and then a Member of the Board feels now he has to defend his reputation because any assertion against NAWASA is an assertion against him even if he sits in the Private Sector. So, I just thought I would make those comments without participating. Senator Cox. Again, there is an invitation for us to go to 9 o' clock, if you... I don't know if you wish to take it up, but...

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: Mr. President, sometime I don't even know when it's night or day, so that probably doesn't apply to me. **(Inaudible comments / Chuckles)**

Mr. President, I just wanted to stand just to raise just three (3) important, I think, important matters that should be heard in the House. And, the first one has to do, recognising the performance of our top student at the CSEC, Teja Patrice from Carriacou. I think she needs to be recognised for what she has done. **(Applause)** Not only for her family and friends, but most importantly, I know that the entire Island of Carriacou is really proud of what she would have done. As a Carriacounian, I feel proud as well. **(Applause)**

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: I didn't hear that.

Mr. President: I'm just being facetious. I said maybe there could be consideration of her being an Ambassador.

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Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox: That is easy for me to do, Mr. President. **(Laughter)** So, Mr. President, not just her, but a number of other students would have done exceedingly well, and we just want to congratulate them as well.

Mr. President, I want to also make mention of our Traffic Wardens. I think that enough mention is not being made of them, you know, sometimes when I pass them in the road in the morning, in the evening, I feel so proud to see how they've been performing their duties and also how the public have accepted them in expending those duties. I see them issuing tickets and things like that and that has been very good for us, and I know that it also helps with the Police and their operations and being able to direct the Police resources in other areas. And, I think they must be commended for the job that they are doing and they seem very proud in what they're doing, and I just need to pay attention to those young persons who are doing exceedingly well, I just want to commend them. And also, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Government of Grenada for taking that initiative. I think that they have just added another twenty (20) or so I think recently and there might be a requirement to add more going forward, Mr. President, I just want to make mention of that.

And lastly, Mr. President, the Ministry of Sports, sometime aback, I think sometime 2012 there was a draft Sports Policy and we decided that it's time now we put that in place to help guide the Ministry in terms of making certain decisions or issuing Ambassadorial status, whatever the case may be to help us to refine that. So, currently, we have the Policy being reviewed by the University of the West Indies through the Open Campus with the view of having it completed by September, sometime by the end of September. I think this is an important development for sports here in Grenada, in terms of having a National Policy as to how we move forward with sports.

One of the things is, because there is a Policy in terms of... after a certain amount of years it should be reviewed so there are going to be some consultations taking place, with various stakeholders within the coming weeks, and so, they are working speedily on that for us. We are happy with the feedback that we're getting from the University of the West Indies and this review would be of no cost to us, Mr. President, and we just want to thank the University for working with us to ensure that we

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get this Policy sorted out finally, and so that we can implement and move forward to develop sports in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, Mr. President. Thank you.

Mr. President: Senator Cadet.

Sen. the Hon. Judd Cadet: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the Minister for Sports already would have made mention of it in his presentation, but as a youth, Mr. President, I feel obligated to actually share my sentiment on the recent performance of Grenada at the Pan Am Games, but I just want to add some thoughts to it as well.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate Grenada on their stella performance on the recently concluded Pan American Games. But, I want to specially congratulate Anderson Peters, he's a young person that I know very well, he lives not too far from me, and since I know him, Mr. President, he has been doing extraordinary, he is doing a great job in the javelin throw. As well as, Mr. President, I want to congratulate Lindon Victor for his silver medal. But, Mr. President, while congratulating them as well, and as well preparing for the 2020 Olympics and the World Championship, I want to make special congratulation to coach Paul Phillip. **(Applause)** Mr. President, the reason why I'm raising this is because of the top five (5) performances at the javelin throw at the Pan American Games, Paul had the top three (3), well, one of the top three (3) performances; he had Anderson Peters, Albert Reynolds who is from St. Lucia. In fact, during his preparation for the Pan American Games, he has been here in Grenada preparing for... Paul was actually coaching him, preparing for this game. He came third and Markim Felix came fifth actually...

(Inaudible comments by the President)

Sen. the Hon. Judd Cadet: Yes, so I want to make... I thought I should have made this statement because sometimes, Mr. President, I know the coach really puts in a lot of work. As a former athlete myself, I know the coach makes selfless sacrifice.

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Sometime as an athlete you don't even know you have that potential and sometime the coach is usually the first one to recognise it. They are the ones that acts as doctors, advisors, your financial support, sometimes if you come from a poor family, they are the ones that support you the way through. And, when these athletes sometime make it out there, the coach still left in the same position. You know it's sometime, I mean you see others, they come here they drive big vehicle, they build home, they have lands, they get Ambassadorial status and the coaches who continue to produce athletes, continue to be there with them, they are in the same position. So, I just thought, Mr. President, it was important that I make this statement. Also, I want to say that Paul has always, been doing that because even Kurt Felix is actually one of his, trained under him as well as a number of them. So, Mr. President, I just want to say congratulation to Paul and I wish him the best as he continues to produce more athletes for this country. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. President: Thank you Senator Cadet. Senator André Lewis.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Thank you very much, Mr. President. If I may just start by, I think this morning when my colleague, Senator Cox, spoke about the awardees on the night of the Dimanche Gras, I think you may have failed, unless my memory, my hearing was not right, to mention Black Wizard. I think because it was three (3). I know originally it was two (2), I don't think that you had mentioned Black Wizard.

(Inaudible comments were made)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Yes.

(Inaudible comments were made)

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Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: But, it was Dimanche Gras night he got it together with... it was the three (3) of them, he, Praying Mantis, no...

(Inaudible comments were made)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Ok, although, I felt that he might take, especially after singing for fifty (50) years and the contribution that he have made, there was nothing wrong to have elevated him to the same level of the other two (2). They could have done the three (3) in one year and then go back to two (2). I think he deserves it and that's in this context, I'm making this point. Yes, and I know you would agree with that, as the culture man that you are, especially from Carriacou.

Mr. President, there is a matter I want to raise and to make a specific request. We have heard the admission from the Prime Minister and others concerning their aspect of what is commonly called now as "Cellgates" and we are concerned that we would like to see an independent investigation because we need to know what has happened. We need to know for instance that this seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) are approximately over a three-month period. What is the extent, how bad the issue is? It is not necessarily going after one person. As a matter of fact, I do not share the view that this may be limited to an individual. But, in order for us to know better, we think it is extremely important that an independent investigation be conducted into the matter. There may be leakages in the system; there may be leakages in the systems and we need to be able to identify those. But, I think it is unfortunate that focus seemed to be placed on an individual. The problem may just be bigger, and because I do not know and because the population is not sure it would be best for us as a people, especially given our recent history, given our recent past, so that we can maintain our confidence. Workers have made sacrifices, we have tightened our belts, and therefore we need to know that the sacrifices that we have made would not go down the drain. So, we want to call for an independent investigation into this matter.

There is the issue... I want to raise the following also, that, in relation to the pension issue, we are yet to receive a date from the Government to address the issue

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of the bulk of workers, the unestablished workers. We have an undertaking to have a discussion on this matter and we wrote to the Government on this matter for the past few months, over a few months now, and we are yet to get a deal. So, we are making this call to address this matter.

There is a matter also in relation to and it is linked to the first point I raised, and I want to preface what I am saying by making the following point. I have absolutely no reason to doubt the integrity of the office holder that I am about to speak about. But, we need to be sure that whatever we do can pass the test of not justice being done, but seemed to be done. I made a call here in the very early days when I just came into the Senate, which is not too long ago, and if my memories serves me right, I think Senator Stiell, as the Leader of Government's Business may have indicated, and I stand to be corrected, that it's a matter that the Government would look into.

We don't think that given the Integrity in Public Life issue, that it is proper to have the close companion, fiancé, husband of any Minister of Government heading the Financial Intelligence Unit. In other words, and I'll link it to another point Senator De Allie had raised just now. I think that it is important to address this matter. Having said this, and it is not at the same level of that concern, but Senator Redhead, I want to take from a little part of your page. Senator De Allie, I heard the point through you, Mr. President, that NAWASA follows International Standards in doing its investigation. I don't think it is a question, it's the first time I'm addressing my mind to it, Senator De Allie. I don't think it is a question of whether or not someone is doubting...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: That's what it is.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: I'm saying what I think. In other words, we can remove that doubt, especially if there is doubt, and that's what I say, we can remove that doubt by having a Body that is extant from NAWASA itself rather than policing itself. Yes, so that's the point I want to make, it's the first time I have addressed my mind to it. And, as we're on NAWASA, let me just deal with this. I think it was an error and just a recommendation to NAWASA, Senator De Allie, through you, Mr.

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President, all of us, we are connected to NAWASA's line. From NAWASA, it gets on to our private property and a few months ago, probably about two (2) months ago, there was a news item where someone in one of the villages complained about their water being coloured. And, it was found out that, that colouring would have come from an adjoining property, a neighbour's property. Someone may have put something in probably their toilet tank or so and it is possible to have gotten... so if you are living a hundred metres from me, it turned out that because I put something in my toilet tank it ended up in my water pipe. And, NAWASA's response was that, this is my responsibility to ensure that that water does not come back into the main. I can't subscribe to that. If I am connected to your mains, I'm connected to your mains, either you advise me or you put a system in place that would prevent a backflow of water. Because what the explanation given by NAWASA was that, because there was no prevention of backflow from my private line, it got on to NAWASA's mains that brought it into my house. If I am paying you, NAWASA have a responsibility to protect my water...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: That's nonsense André.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Well, I heard it. I'm agreeing with you. No, I'm agreeing with you...

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: I have you offline.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Yes, well I'm agreeing with you.

Sen. the Hon. Christopher De Allie: You see you're saying that publicly.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Yes, I'm saying it publicly because it came on the media. Mr. President, through you, there is a matter here and as a worker representative, I would like to see what assistance that can be given. There is a worker who works with the Venezuelan Embassy, they are on repeat. There is a Grenadian

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worker who lives in Lacalome and who works with the Venezuelan Embassy and has found herself being blocked off from Bank of Nova Scotia, her account closed, frozen, that's where her salary goes, and it has to do with the fact that she is working with the Venezuelan Embassy. I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the House, to the Senate. I have been assured by her that she is a Grenadian. It follows from a correspondence that was sent to her dated April 25th, 2019 by Bank of Nova Scotia and in terms of open disclosure, it is linked to the embargo by the US and others on Venezuela. And, it actually felt me, especially on Saturday when we went out to give solidarity, there we were, as Grenadians, on Grenadian soil, giving solidarity, calling on others to give solidarity to Venezuela and there is a Grenadian citizen on our home soil, in a Branch that is located on Grenadian home soil and has been denied access to her account. Therefore, I want to bring this to the attention here.

Having said this, I think this is it. I wanted to stay within the ten (10) minutes and finally end by indicating that the point raised by Senator Redhead.

Mr. President: Might I just inquire before you just move onto the other point. Was this matter brought to the attention of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs because not only is Grenada having that problem, on the news not too long ago, a number of European countries and even including the Canadian Prime Minister had raised issues about the extra territorial power of Laws passed by the United States Congress. So, my question is, has this matter been drawn to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? One, and two, has a court examined this matter? Because if I validly have my money in your account and my money does not violate Grenadian Law, somebody has to explain to me, how I can't have access to my funds. And, it may be necessary to go legal on this issue, it may be necessary to go legal on this issue, and let the local Bank face the Court and explain to the Court, how, operating under Grenadian Law where there is no breach, there is no case of money laundering or anything, I'm a worker, I'm paid my salary, how it is you can exercise to refuse me access to my salary? What the Bank could very well do is to say they are no longer receiving funds for you and hand you back over your account. But, a Bank cannot unilaterally seize my property, that's a

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complete and utter violation of this provision, the sacred book called our Constitution because it protects the right to private property. So, I would really wish you to follow this up and maybe on the support of the Union go quickly and file a Constitutional Motion on behalf of that employee because that is just wrong in my view. So, I just wish to make that, but you have the floor to continue. I thought I would make that intervention.

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: Sure, Mr. President, thank you very much and I have undertaken to follow up and I'm saying that I had personal conversation with the lady in question, and I have not been able to verify any other thing outside of this, but I have no reason to doubt her. It was raised with me on Saturday just after, during the period that we did the solidarity. And, it bothered me as a Grenadian, as a patriot, especially at the time that we were doing it.

As I said, in ending, I just wanted to point out that it was said in the passing, and I just want to give credence to it, in passing without going into much detail, via Senator Redhead, through you, Mr. President, as you would know there were concerns and probably ongoing concerns, some of it has been rectified, but in relation to the issue of carbon monoxide at the Bus Terminus would be a major concern for us and recommendations were made as how to...

(Inaudible comments by Mr. President)

Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis: It was a serious issue and many times we take those things for granted, and why I wish to compliment, Mr. President, your handling of the exchange with Senator Redhead, I take your counseling of the need to be certain on some issues that you have raised, but I felt proud going back to the point that we made when Senators like Judd, Senator Cadet, Ron, Cathisha, George, James, came in, that we will have robust debates, and it is a learning process here, but what it tells me, is that we have young Grenadians who are concerned about people. So, whatever it is about NAWASA, all the facts may not be there, all the facts may not be

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there on all the issues, but I can hear the passion in Senator Redhead. And, it is not just a question of sitting on 'This Side' or 'That Side' because at the end of the day we all consume water, at the end of the day we use the Bus Terminus, at the end of the day we have kids and we have friends and families. So, we would be guided by your guidance in relation to how we present our concerns, but I really want to compliment Senator Redhead because I say I know the stalk you come from, I know your Dad, your Dad, Martin Redhead, and he would be proud of you. It's a learning process, but I think the people of Grenada can feel assured, especially where we do not have that Consumer Protection Unit that we have in other parts of the world. It is really good for you to continue along that line. Yes, we have some edges to sought out, we all do. But, I feel very much reassured every day and what's good, you are not daunted. Learn, but you are not daunted. And, I think we have to learn to, we might disagree with someone, but we can respect, we can respect when they stand up for something. You don't have to agree with them on everything and it's a good note to end on. I feel reassured every day and we have to continue working together. Senator Stiell, all of us, because this is about Grenada. Remember National Sustainable Development Plan 2035 is not about a Party, is not about a Government, but it's about Grenada and that is the context in where you have to address a number of things. Thank you very much.

Mr. President: On the carbon monoxide issue at the Bus Terminus, I'm very conversant with the issue. There are two (2) issues here, the clearance, carbon monoxide is a very heavy gas, so it sinks. Yes, and as it sinks, it displaces oxygenated air. The Terminus because of the clearance, the height and because it is concreted, it traps that carbon monoxide there and there is a limit of circulation taking place. It's a problem that we were aware of in the Union. Some extractor fans need to be placed inside there because it's unhealthy not only for the commuters, but it is also unhealthy for the workers who work there who tend to be there in a more sustained way than a commuter who just comes in and out of a bus, whereas the worker has to be there for eight (8) hours straight and it's a matter that really needs to... There is a design flaw in the place because the booths tend to block off part of the circulation. There are a

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number of booths inside there and then to the back and so on and you know. On the Upper Level it is not a problem because the incoming air takes it all out, but when you have a situation of heavy overcast as we have now, and you don't have very much breeze it's a serious problem which the Union must speedily address.

Sen. the Hon. Simon Stiell: I'll just close up. Mr. President, I just wanted to address a couple of points on the 'Other Side'. The only thing I will say about the phone abuse matter is simply to reiterate what has already been said. And, that is, this is not, this is not about an individual, there was a systemic failure, systemic failure. Government has taken this very seriously, Government has also taken ownership of this matter. But, it's also clear, Mr. President, the responsibility lies with all parties, Government, Public Service and the Service Provider and an investigation that is being carried out will identify exactly where those failures are and what needs to be addressed long term moving forward, so there isn't a repeat of it. But, in the short run in terms of identifying those persons who are not entitled to use a Government phone, have been taken off the system. They have been identified, taken off the system, and they will be returning those monies according to their bill, however high, however low, so that is being addressed. And, with regards to the investigation in terms of how far back this goes, that investigation, Mr. President, go back to 2008, because we know, we know this isn't something that's just popped up overnight. So, let's see where that leads. But, in terms of protecting public resources, it is a top priority, it is a serious matter and it has been taken seriously.

With regard to the comments from Senator Ron. I'm glad I didn't respond to you at the start, and I think the guidance and the counsel that's been provided by Senator De Allie and the President, Senator Redhead, I strongly suggest you take that on board. Words matter, what you say in this House, through you, Mr. President, matters, and you need to choose your words carefully and let us not mistake, that ignorance on a matter for mischief making, because it could be construed as that, Mr. President. And, when we're talking about the health of the Nation and we want to draw attention to certain

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issues, let us do it in the right way, a responsible way, Mr. President, and there are channels.

I know something was going to read out because I got a Report on the interactions with NAWASA, the dates, how they responded, how you responded. And, from that Report, it's not reflective of what Senator Redhead reported here, but again, I'm not going to unravel that.

Regarding... first of all going back to quality, the standards that I used to measure water quality are WHO Standards, World Health Organisation Standards. He used the words such as, manipulation of fact, shady operations, those are dangerous words, dangerous words, Mr. President, and are not, are not reflective of the transparency, and the cooperation that NAWASA, and the patience, the patience that NAWASA has shown in accommodating Senator Redhead on this mission. If there are issues, if there are genuine issues they want to know about it, we all want to know about, and we want them remedied immediately, but if this is simply mischief making or based on an individual's ignorance then we need to cauterise that. There is a place, there are opportunities if you have genuine concerns, they would listen to you and they would respond where and when appropriate.

So, Mr. President, in closing off today's session, we've covered a lot of ground. I was encouraged by the debate that we had on the Coastal Zone Management Bill. That is an important piece of Legislation, and it shows that this Government is seeking to raise the bar in terms of our approach to sustainable development. And, I was encouraged by the responses from all Members here. I prefer to remember that than the comments that we heard here earlier. So, on that note, Mr. President, I want to thank everybody for a vibrant session today. Thank you.

Mr. President: Thank you Senators. Just to use the opportunity to raise a number of matters which concern me, and I will just spend a moment on the carnival product. I didn't see very much of it, much of what I saw came over my engagement with the television. But, I think it can be safe to say that the organisation and the

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standard and execution of this major cultural fiesta have improved over the years from what I noticed. **(Applause)**

Senator Cox, you certainly demonstrated the aptitude and energy to get this thing off and going. The only significant contender I could think of was former Senator Arley Gill and I don't know if you have been liaising with him, but he has had an abundance of ideas, and quite a number of his ideas I have seen being exercised.

I do have some concerns and I want to raise them, one, I'm trying to start a Movement and I don't know how successful I would be to get our songsters and songstresses who produce songs for consumption of carnival to begin to move away from the objectivisation of our women. Our society faces a serious epidemic of sexual crimes. I know some things are traditional and in the calypso artform the female was fair game. But, I think that we have reached a stage in our maturity and development which should reflect evolution. And, this perpetual preponderance of objectivisation of women and their anatomy, overwhelmingly dominates the form. Now, it is true that, that has a historic context to it, but it is also true that in those years of yesteryear, there was serious censorship. You wanted to hear something, a pun on women, etcetera, you had to go a calypso tent. I grew up when the famous Mr. Benwood, whatever his name was, was played, not on radio, not inside of your living rooms.

I had the opportunity to give a youngster a lift to participate in one of the carnival bands, and when I got there I had the full sight of an army of bare buttocks. I've heard the Police and I think by and large, not by and large, I think we can salute them for the job that they have been doing to keep us safe, but something has got to be done with public indecency, and there was a lot of it during carnival. In fact, circulating on video chat was the act of youngster, there was a young boy, could not be more than eight (8) years of age or thereabout having a time and this is becoming more and more open in our society. What is worse is that the Corporate Community is populating the minds of the people with that filth. In my home, in your home, on public television you can see the degree of nudity that is pumped into our homes by companies like FLOW. I must admit that from my observation, MTV have become far more circumspect, but certainly FLOW, and I'm going to call them out, FLOW and GBN because I can tell you that there

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were elderly folks led by former Member of the House of Representatives, Phinsley St. Louis, who had a discussion with me in which we decided that we're going to petition FLOW for the filth that they bring into our homes and into our living rooms where children are. And, I'm not talking now about access to pornographic sites, I'm talking about the commercialisation of social decadence and the objectivisation of our women. To the extent which women themselves believe that part of the distinguishing feature of a woman is to expose themselves overtly in public. Something has got to be wrong with that level of thinking of democracy.

And, I'll be making some recommendations on Laws that I think that we can introduce because if it is unlawful to run a strip club then it cannot be lawful for our female folk to behave and carry themselves in the manner in which I have seen in recent vintage, it cannot be. And, I know there are people who would cry to the Heavens that this is an assault on democratic rights and freedom of expression, but as far as I am concerned, this is an assault on our best traditions as a people, and a stop must be put it it. There is a clear distinction between culture and open vulgarity. And, I think something has got to be done about it.

And therefore, I want to make this appeal to our songsters because there is a crisis facing us. Every Assizes, the largest single block of criminal cases before the Court are sexual offences. And, what will happen over time as has happened in some countries, the more these things occur, is the less sensitive people become to them and they become a part of your way of life. When I hear about the murder rates in some of our neighbouring countries and the shocking crimes that occur, when I speak to friends in those countries, they are not moved. And, the reason why they are not moved is because they have built up an immunity to shock and accept these things as a normal part of living. Well, it ought not to be. And, I think as legislators in whichever field we find ourselves and here I would appeal to my Trade Union colleagues to begin the process of rescuing our society from the decadence that has infiltrated it. And, a lot of it has got to do with the ease within which we intercourse with certain cultures to the North and the fact that lots of our people live there. Right. I heard an argument from a legal colleague of mine who was about to go to challenge in the Court, freedom of

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speech, and that legal colleague felt that that freedom of speech could allow a citizen to use obscenities before a Police Officer or before anyone else. And, I was really amazed at the degree to which some professions in the pursuit of individual recognition and I would say in the pursuit of attracting clients, will take our society down these parts and these are some of the comments I would wish for us to make.

The other thing is, I think, Senator Cox, we need to look because we were packaging so many events into those two (2) days of public holidays, I think we need to look at the possibility because it happened before purely by accident when carnival was rained out, we held a half day carnival on a Saturday. Because the activity now brings in so much money, and it's an opportunity for circulating money, especially for ordinary and working people who vend, there may be some worthiness in considering a Saturday half day to bring, your bands which did not parade, your fancy bands which didn't have much of an opportunity to parade so that people can see them and given the expense. You know some of these bands the costumes are three and a half thousand dollars you know. I was shocked when I learned the price. As a matter of fact, I have to inquire with you, what are the conditions for subventions because I can't imagine that a band which sells a costume for three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3500) is receiving free money from the State. I would be rather surprised about that. But, it is something that I think one can consider, utilising the Saturday after carnival as a half holiday type of activity where people can have some extra time to be able to parade their costumes and to extend the carnival economic activity because right now it has lost all, it has nothing to do much more with religion, and how it was originated before, it's now an economic venture.

Of course, it's a display of our creativity and our talent, and I will say more about that on a one and one to you because I believe the State is not doing enough to encourage local talent. There is now a practice of importing costumes. I don't understand why we are allowing our local industry of wirebending and so on to disappear and why we are facilitating foreign penetration. If we want to give expression to our culture, then I can't understand why it is those assemblies that promote nudity can walk away with hundreds of thousands of dollars, while our traditional mass bands

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that speak to the core of our culture and what makes us Grenadian are becoming dinosaurs simply because they're not attracting funding in order for them to survive. But, that's a private discussion you and I can have on some ideas of how we can maintain our cultural heritage because this is what distinguishes us from other people, that we have a unique cultural heritage which while things progress, but we must also try to preserve and do not replace our cultural heritage with negative, negative influences that I see now arising.

As I said, I have lived most of my life, and for whatever I have left I would really want to see Grenada on a more upward and positive path distinguishing ourselves from the rest by being virtuous and that I think we can do. We can do it because we sell it. We have the lowest crime rate in the Caribbean. It's one of our features, it is something we should be proud about, it is something we should be thankful to the Police Officers for because they provide us with that level of security. We must look at creative ways, and I think that Senator Lewis was making a very important point. We have to find creative ways, if we can't do it basically on salaries, we may be able to do it by the creation of opportunities that will allow them to improve the livelihood of themselves and their families and to see their career as a great career in the contributions that they make to the security and stability of the State.

Honourable Members, I thank you for your indulgence on this matter, and at this point this House now stands adjourned **sine die**.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned **sine die at 4:58 p.m.**

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