



Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Deputy President
Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
in the Chair

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas	Minister of State with responsibility for Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew	Minister for Education, Youth, Sports & Culture
Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton	Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph	Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
Senator the Honourable Jonathan La Crette	Minister for Health, Wellness & Religious Affairs
Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas-Samuel	Minister for Health, Wellness & Religious Affairs

Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	Member of the Senate (Labour Rep)
Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman	Member of the Senate (Business Rep)
Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair	Member of the Senate (Farmers Rep)

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams	Madam President (Excuse tendered)
Senator the Honourable Katisha Douglas	Opposition Member of the Senate (Excuse tendered)

The Sitting of the Senate began at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT

The Deputy President made the following announcements:

“Honourable Members, just before we proceed, just to bring to the attention of the House that the Order Paper as presented as sent to Members prior to this Sitting has been amended. The Resolution regarding the NTF doesn’t require to be at this Senate Sitting, it doesn’t require to come at the Upper House, so that Resolution was removed. So, we will just have to... one Resolution and that has to deal with the Tax amendment for the alcohol and tobacco. I just wanted to raise that.

Secondly, the Honourable Senator Katisha Douglas has indicated her inability to be here present today. So, she has tendered an excuse for being absent.

Additionally, the President who is not with us today as she is out of State and so we wish her safe travels as she prepares to return home sometime next week. So, thank you very much for your attention in that regard.

Additionally, I just want to tender happy New Year to all Members. I think this is our first Sitting for the year while be it an emergency one. I think it's appropriate to extend greetings from the Chair and wish all Members all the best for 2023. We do have the responsibility to do the business of the people at this Honourable Place and I think it is important for us to continue to remember that, that our roles in terms of what we are called upon to do. And as we start the New Year, I just want to bring that to the attention of Members. I think it's important for us to be guided by that. Thank you very much and we can proceed."

MOTIONS

(a) *The Leader of Government's Business & Minister of State wrf Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives moved the following Motion standing in his name:*

RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 33 (3) OF THE EXCISE TAX ACT CAP 94.

WHEREAS it is provided by section 33 (3) of the Excise Tax Act, Chapter 94 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the Minister may by Order published in the *Gazette* and approved by affirmative resolution of the Parliament amend the First Schedule and the Second Schedule of the Act;

WHEREAS the Minister proposes to amend the First Schedule of the Act to increase the excise tax on alcohol from \$1.10 and \$4.40 per litre to \$1.50 and \$5.00 per litre respectively and increase the Excise Tax on cigarettes from 105% to 200%, in accordance with section 33 (3) of the Act;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Excise Tax Order, 2023 which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Act be approved by Parliament;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 33 (3) of the Act, the Excise Tax Order, 2023 as set out in the Schedule to this Resolution is hereby approved by Parliament.

SCHEDULE

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Leader of Government's Business & Minister of State wrf Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
- Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn
- Minister for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis

Mr. Deputy President made some remarks.

- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- Minister of State wrf Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Minister for Health, Wellness & Religious Affairs
- Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

The Leader of Government's Business & Minister of State wrf Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives thanked Senators for their contributions, gave his rebuttal and commended the Motion to the Senate.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

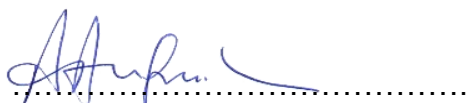
The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved

the adjournment of the Senate *sine die*.

The Deputy President, Senator the Honourable Norland Cox spoke on the adjournment.

Senate adjourned at 2:45 p.m. sine die.

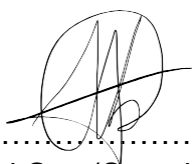
Submitted to the Deputy President for his signature in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(2) of the Revised Standing Orders of the Senate.



Andrew Augustine

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

Signed by me pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Standing Order No. 7(2).



Norland Cox (Sen. the Hon.)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE