



## SENATE

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### Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 9:15 a.m.

#### PRESENT

Madam President  
 Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams  
*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	Minister of State with responsibility for Social Development and Gender Affairs
Senator the Honourable Norland Cox	Opposition Member of the Senate (Deputy President)

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 Katisha Douglas	Opposition Member of the Senate (Excuse tendered)
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**The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:15 a.m.**

### **PRAYERS**

Prayers were said.

### **OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OR AFFIRMATION OF A NEW SENATOR**

There was no Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Senator.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes be taken as read.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes be confirmed.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox expressed that the Leader of Government's Business should state the date of the Sitting for the purposes of the record of the

Hansard.

Madam President concurred and asked the Leader of Government's Business to clarify.

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. be confirmed.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

There was no Message from the Governor-General.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MADAM PRESIDENT**

*Madam President made the following announcements:*

"Honourable Members, Senator the Honourable Katisha Williams has sent her regrets that she will be unable to attend our meeting this morning.

Second announcement is, I take the opportunity to wish to Senator Rahaman and all others, a very belated pleasant happy Mubarak Ramadan as you celebrate your festival."

Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph corrected the President that the Senator's name was Katisha Douglas and not Katisha Williams.

The President thanked the Member for the correction.

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

There were no Ministerial Statements.

## PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

The following Papers and Reports were laid:

1. Report of the Director of Audit, Grenada on the Financial Statements of the Office of the Ombudsman for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.
2. National Insurance Scheme – 13<sup>th</sup> Actuarial Review of the National Insurance Fund as of December 31, 2021.

Madam President ordered the Papers and Reports to be laid on the Table.

## PETITIONS

There were no Petitions.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

There were no Government Notices

## UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

There were no unofficial notices.

## QUESTIONS

***Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair asked the Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas the following questions standing in his name:***

***(Unanswered from the Sitting of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2022)***

**\*Question # 1**

**Question pertaining to Sargassum:**

Please inform the Senate on Government's plans for addressing the sargassum invasion of our shores that are affecting our fisherfolks and seamoss farmers in particular.

**\*Question # 2****Question pertaining to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):**

Please inform the Senate as to Government's plans for Grenada to become compliant with CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) agreement such that Grenada will be allowed to export conch (Lambie) and our divers can be able to improve their income.

**\*Question # 3****Question pertaining to membership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO):**

Considering the significance of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Organization, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) relative to climate and weather forecasting, please inform the Senate on the following:

- a) Has Government considered becoming a member of the World Meteorological Organization
- b) If yes, please provide information on the plans or roadmap to achieving membership.
- c) If no, please provide information as to Government's decision to not consider joining.

***(Please note that the questions above were not read.)***

***The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas responded:*** "Madam President, I want to inform this Honourable House that the questions, question number 1, question number 2, question number 3 presented by Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, I want to inform this House that all answers have been presented to the Clerk of Parliament and I expect him to disseminate the information to all Senators and I assume that this has been done. So, I think we can proceed."

Madam President thanked the Senator.

***Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair responded:*** "Thank you, Madam President, and thank you Leader of Government's Business. In the responses which I will look at some time later and respond further if I find there is more clarity. Thank you."

Senator St. Clair advised that the question relating to the Marketing and National Importing Board was placed for oral response. He mentioned that it was an error and the question should be down for written response.

***Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair asked the Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas the following questions standing in his name:***

**Question # 4**

**Question pertaining to the Government-named Technical Working Group on the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB):**

Please inform the Senate on the following:

- (i) The full name of each member of the Government appointed Technical Working Group on the MNIB.
- (ii) The qualifications and experience of each member of the Technical Working Group.
- (iii) Terms of Reference that Government has provided to the Technical Working Group.
- (iv) The criteria used to determine the composition of the Technical working group on MNIB. And, the fifth and final component of this question;
- (v) Is there any form of remuneration or compensation that will be paid to members of the Technical Working Group on MNIB?

Madam President thanked Senator St. Clair and offered the floor to the Leader of Government's Business.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas requested that Senator St. Clair make one presentation for the three questions, after which he would respond accordingly.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox sought clarification on the questions that required oral and written responses. He noted that the current questions had an asterisk on the side of them and inquired whether Senator St. Clair was saying that the questions should not have been placed for oral responses.

Senator St. Clair advised that the first question was for a written response and as such the asterisk should be removed. He advised further that the other two questions had asterisks, but noted that there was an error on the Order Paper and pointed out that the request was for a written response.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox inquired further on whether the old questions required oral response and Senator St. Clair replied in the affirmative.

In view of the response provided by Senator St. Clair, Senator the Honourable Norland Cox advised that the answers to the questions requiring oral response should be read for the purposes of recording of the Hansard, before the Senate proceeded to the new questions. He advised further that a copy of the answers for the written questions should be circulated to all Members and noted that he had not received a copy.

Madam President thanked Senator Cox for his comments and called on the Leader of Government's Business to respond.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas inquired of Senator Cox of the section of the Standing Orders he was referring, which outlined that the oral responses should be read into the records.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox advised that the Hansard and the asterisk pointed to questions that required oral responses and as such the answer should be oral.

**(Madam President conversed with the Clerk)**

Madam President stated that she was advised that it would be useful for Senator St. Clair to read the answers he received and called upon Senator St. Clair.

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair indicated that if he read the answers provided, it would mean that he was answering his own questions.

In that regard, the President called upon the Leader of Government's Business to provide the oral responses to the questions.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, again requested from Senator Norland Cox the section of the Standing Order that outlined that answers should be read aloud. He read into the records Standing Order 19 (6), which outlined the procedure to be followed when an oral response was not provided in one Sitting and the question was placed for another Sitting.

Madam President thanked the Senators for their discourse.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox indicated that it was not his wish to draw out the discussion, but inquired whether it was that the Leader of Government's Business was saying that he could choose not to read into the records the answer to questions that required oral responses.

Madam President advised that under no conditions were the rules to be ignored or otherwise violated but she understood the spirit in which the query was made.

**(Members of the Government Side dialogued)**

Further discussions were held and the President suggested that the Senate take a brief adjournment in order to caucus on the matter.

**Senate adjourned at 9:35 a.m.**

**Senate resumed at 9:40 a.m.**

***Answer to Question # 1***

*The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas responded:* "Thank you, Madam President, the answer to question one to address the sargassum problem, Government will take the following measures:

- 1) Establish a Standing Committee with key stakeholders such as Agriculture, Fisheries, Solid Waste Management, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Authority, Hotel and Tourism Association, affected communities and other relevant community groups.

The functions of this Committee would be:

- a. Develop a national protocol and mitigation plan for the effective management of the sargassum seaweed along the coast by appropriately clearing clogged waterways and beaches, to ensure that this process does not negatively impact the ecological functions of the sargassum on marine biodiversity;
  - b. Collaborate with regional counterparts/institutions (e.g., the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)) in the areas such as harnessing data collection, assessing impacts, formulating research, and developing "best practices";
  - c. Explore commercial options for sargassum use for agricultural or medical; and
  - d. Explore the option of establishing a regional early warning eco system.
- 2) Under the Japan's Grant Aid for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Grenada, the Government of Japan would provide the following tools and equipment to aid in responsible collection and disposal of sargassum seaweed:
    - a. Five-ton boat;
    - b. Trawler net;
    - c. Dump trucks; and
    - d. Other small tools and equipment."

## Answer to Question # 2

*The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas responded:* "Queen conch or Lambie is a species harvested by our local fishers which is traded locally and also exported to regional and international niche markets which brings in significant foreign exchange earnings by providing a source of income and sustainable livelihoods to our fishers.

However, in 2016, Grenada was sanctioned by CITES for non-reporting for three consecutive years, and in 2020 our country has been suspended from all trade in species of *Strombus gigas* (Queen Conch or Lambie) as a result of not being in compliance with CITES Protocol for this species which has been listed on CITES Appendix II since 1992.

An Appendix II Listing shall include:

- a) All species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival;
- b) Other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph may be brought under effective control.

As a result of this restriction and the resulting impact of curtailing the income of our fishers by not being able to export this specie, the Ministry in compliance with the CITES was requested to conduct a stock assessment of the Queen conch to determine the robustness of the stock so that trade can be resumed under management and conservation arrangements established by CITES. Assistance to undertake this activity was provided by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the European Union (EU) through the OECS Commission under the project "Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue Bio Trade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine diversity in selected Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries" referred to as the UNCTAD-OECS Blue Bio Trade project.

The project, aimed at empowering small-scale coastal producers to produce and trade Queen conch products sustainably through the application of Blue Bio Trade Principles and Criteria in Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. A training workshop and field data collection were conducted in October 2022. The draft report was presented for discussion at a virtual meeting in November 2022, which should have been followed by its finalization at the end of 2022.

The main conclusion of the study are that the Queen conch population of Grenada is considered to be very healthy, and an estimated biomass available at the fisheries of 656,989 lbs. Therefore, a precautionary Annual Total Allowable Catch limit of 558,440

lbs of conch meat (85% of 656,989 lbs) is recommended by the Consultant. These results signify that the Queen conch stock is very healthy and can support a fishery for the export market. Therefore, Grenada would be able to sustainably resume the exportation of the Queen conch under CITES management regime:

- (a) Establishment of local Regulations in conformity with CITES management and conservation protocols which is critical to ensure that trade in this species is legal, sustainable, and traceable.
- (b) Establishment of a Management Authority, a Scientific Authority and Enforcement Points. Currently, the Forestry and National Parks Department is the Focal Point for CITES in Grenada. However, this arrangement must be reviewed under the new structures to be developed to ensure effective coordination and management between the various entities – Fisheries, Forestry, Customs and other identified agencies.
- (c) Establishment of an Inspection Protocol for shipments of Queen conch prior to the issuing of an export certificate by the Management Authority.
- (d) Licensing of fishers and fishing vessels to comply with CITES requirements.
- (e) To prepare outstanding national annual CITES Reports (2016 – 2021) and to submit to CITES Secretariat as a priority.

Once the foregoing has been satisfactorily accomplished, the CITES Secretariat would then provide the authorization for Grenada to resume exportation of the species.”

### **Answer to Question # 3**

*The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas responded:* “Madam President, no evidence exists to indicate prior intention by Grenada to become a member of the WMO. Government notes the benefits of membership in the WMO as the organization provides world leadership and expertise in international cooperation in the delivery and use of high-quality, authoritative weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services by its Members, for the improvement of the well-being of societies of all nations. WMO facilitates and promotes:

- i. The establishment of an integrated Earth System observation network to provide weather, climate, and water-related data.
- ii. The establishment and maintenance of data management centres and telecommunication systems for the provision and rapid exchange of weather, climate and water-related data.
- iii. The creation of standards for observation and monitoring in order to ensure adequate uniformity in the practices and procedures employed

- worldwide and, thereby, ascertain the homogeneity of data and statistics.
- iv. The provision of weather, climate, and water-related services - through the application of science and technology in operational meteorology and hydrology - to reduce disaster risks and contribute to climate change adaptation, as well as for sectors such as transport (aviation, marine, land-based), water resource management, agriculture, health, energy, and other areas.
  - v. Activities in operational hydrology as well as closer cooperation between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in states and territories where they are appropriate.
  - vi. The coordination of research and training in meteorology and related fields.

Based on the WMO's scale of assessment, Grenada would be required to contribute 0.02% of the WMO's approved budget, which for 2023 would be 13,577.22 Swiss Francs which is equivalent to USD\$14,559.55 and which brings us to XCD\$39,347.91. There is no budgetary allocation to facilitate membership at this point in time, but Government notes the benefits that can be derived. Thank you."

Madam President thanked the Leader of Government's Business for his oral response.

Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis suggested that the questions be read out before the answers were read.

Madam President thanked Senator Lewis for his suggestion.

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair indicated that he had new questions to be asked.

Madam President thanked the Leader of Government's Business for providing this comprehensive and informed reply. She believed that Members all learnt on the status of a number of issues and said she hoped that Senator St. Clair's questions and concerns were addressed. She took the opportunity to encourage the circulation of answers, even though questions required oral responses. She stressed that the answers to questions were of interest to all the Members

Madam President thanked Senator Cox for pressing on the matter of procedure in the Senate, which she believed helped to ensure the answers were read into the records. She again thanked the Leader of Government's Business for his full generosity in providing both, a written and then an oral reply.

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair expressed that he was satisfied with the responses provided to the questions asked on behalf on his stakeholders

## NEW QUESTIONS

***Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair asked the following questions to the Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, standing in his name:***

### **Question # 4**

**The question pertaining to Grenada regaining market access to the USA for fresh mangoes**

- (i) Has Government embarked on a plan of action including strategies and resources to support our farmers and fresh produce exporters to recommence exports of mangoes to the USA?
- (ii) If yes, please inform this Honourable House of the Senate, as to Government's plan.
- (iii) If no, please provide the Senate with an approximate time that a plan would be available for sharing with the farmers, the public and Members of this House.

### **Question # 5**

**Question pertaining to the status of the establishment of the Praedial Larceny Fund as is set out under the Praedial Larceny Act since Government's last response to my questions pertaining to this, this is like a follow up question**

Please inform the Senate of the progress to date by the Government to have the Praedial Larceny Fund established within the Government's Accounts such that fines at the Magistrate's Court for offences under the Praedial Larceny Act can be deposited and become accessible to farmers who may request compensation under the Act by writing to the Minister of Agriculture.

Madam President thanked Senator St. Clair and offered the floor to the Leader of Government's Business.

*The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas responded:* "Thank you very much, Madam President, and I have noted the questions presented by the Senator, Senator Roderick St. Clair and I would definitely be able to present the answers to the general public, to the House and to the Senator. However I will, Madam President, I want to kindly request that we defer those questions to another Sitting of the House where the answers would be presented."

Madam President thanked the Leader of Government's Business and noted the concurrence of Senator St. Clair. She said she was happy to grant the request and had no doubt that there would be thoroughness in the responses provided.

### **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

There were no personal explanations.

### **MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

### **BILLS**

#### **DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2023**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

#### **The Bill was read a first time.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

#### **Question proposed.**

#### **Question put and agreed to.**

#### **Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

Senator St. Clair rose and stated that he had a question before the vote was taken.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions to the Motion to express why the Standing Order should not be suspended to take the Bill through all its stages:

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman

Madam President made comments

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas rebutted and gave reason why he thought the Bill should go through all stages at that Sitting.

**Question put and agreed**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the second reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn
- Minister for Education, Youth, Sports & Culture
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Minister for Health, Wellness & Religious Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
- Leader of Government's Business
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

The President proposed that the Senate adjourn for lunch.

**Senate adjourned for lunch at 1:40 p.m. for 45 minutes.**  
**Senate resumed at 2:50 p.m.**

**Debate on the Bill continued.**

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox rose on a Point-of-Order, referencing Standing Order 34 (1) and stated that the only person to speak twice on a Bill was the mover of

the Bill.

Madam President thanked the Senator for his observation.

The Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs pointed out that Senator St. Clair was allowed to speak subsequent to the Leader of Government's Business and advised that she was standing to close the debate on the Bill.

Madam President allowed the member to proceed.

The Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs continued her presentation.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox again rose and requested that the second contributions made by the two Senators after the mover of the Bill be struck from the Hansard.

Madam President thanked the Member for his clarification of the Standing Orders and sought to provide some clarity on the matter.

**(Madam President and the Clerk conversed)**

Madam President suggested that rather than remove the contributions entirely it should be placed in another section of the Hansard based on the relevance of the responses.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox offered further clarification of Standing Order 34 and indicated what the breach of the Standing Order could mean.

Madam President indicated that she was willing to include the contribution in the Hansard, but not as the closing statement by the mover of the Motion.

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox strongly advocated that the contributions by the Attorney General and Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair should not form part of the records and gave his justification.

Madam President thanked the Senator for his guidance but asked that the statements be included but not as a close of the debate.

The Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs requested that Madam President accede to the guidance by the Clerk.

Madam President expressed that she accepted the position of Senator the Honourable Norland Cox and would note it in the records but will proceed to include and summarise

the advice of the Clerk.

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair asked for clarity on the end results.

Madam President expressed that based on advice from the Clerk that the contribution would not be removed from the record but would not constitute as the closing remarks of the mover of the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Part by Part.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

Part II - Privacy and Data Collection Principles - agreed to

Part III - Rights of Data Subjects - agreed to as amended

***Amendment: In Clause 21 (3) delete the word "of" after the word "fine" and substitute it with the words "not exceeding".***

Part IV - Exemption - agreed to as amended

***Amendment: In Clause 37 (2):***

***a). Delete the word "of" after the word "fine" and substitute it with the words "not exceeding"; and***

***b). Delete the word "of" after the word "term" and substitute it with the words "not exceeding".***

Part V - Information Commission - agreed to

Part VI - Enforcement - agreed to

Part VII - Offences - agreed to as amended

***Amendment: In Clause 42 (1) (a):***

**a). Delete the word “of” after the word “fine” and substitute it with the words “not exceeding”; and**

**b). Delete the word “of” after the word “term” and substituting it with the words “not exceeding”.**

**In Clause 42 (1) (b):**

**a). Delete the word “of” after the word “fine” and substitute it with the words “not exceeding”; and**

**b). Delete the word “of” after the word “term” and substitute it with the words “not exceeding”.**

**In Clause 42 (2) (a), delete the word “of” after the word “fine” and substitute it with the words “not exceeding”.**

**In Clause 42 (2) (b), delete the word “of” after the word “fine” and substitute it with the words “not exceeding”.**

- |                           |   |                      |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Part VIII - Miscellaneous | - | agreed to            |
| - Schedule I              | - | agreed to as amended |

**Amendment: In Schedule I:**

**a). In subparagraph (d), delete the word “or” after the semicolon;**

**b). In subparagraph (e), delete the full-stop and substitute it with a semicolon and insert the word “or” after the semicolon;**

**c). Insert after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraph—**

**“(f) holds national executive office in a political party.”**

- |                      |   |           |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| - Schedule II        | - | agreed to |
| Part 1 - Preliminary | - | agreed to |

The Leader of Government’s Business moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

The Senate resumed and the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole Senate and passed with amendments.

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the third reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

Madam President congratulated Members on their hard work on the Bill.

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL, 2023**

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

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

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the second reading of the Bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Leader of Government's Business
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Minister for Education, Youth, Sports & Culture
- Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

The Leader of Government's Business thanked Members on both sides of the House for supporting the Bill because of its importance.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Part by Part.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

Part II	-	National Emergency Advisory Council	-	agreed to
Part III	-	National Disaster Management Agency	-	agreed to
Part IV	-	District Disaster Management Committee	-	agreed to
Part V	-	Specially Vulnerable Areas	-	agreed to
Part VI	-	Disaster Risk Financing	-	agreed to
Part VII	-	Obligations of persons involved in Disaster Management	-	agreed to
Part VIII	-	National Multi-Hazard Alert System and Declaration of Disasters	-	agreed to
Part IX	-	Miscellaneous	-	agreed to

	-	Schedule I	-	agreed to
Part I	-	Preliminary provisions	-	agreed to

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

The Senate resumed and the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole Senate and passed without amendment.

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the third reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair outlined the reasons why he would not pursue going forward with the Motions on the Order Paper standing in his name.

Madam President accepted the proposal for deferral by the Senator and put the question to the Senate.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motions deferred.**

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (RECOMMITTED)**

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on December 21, 2022 be confirmed.

**Questions proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

**Private Member's Bill (Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair)**

### **AGRICULTURE CROP COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

The above-mentioned Bill was not taken at that Sitting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Madam President asked Members for closing comments prior to the adjournment.

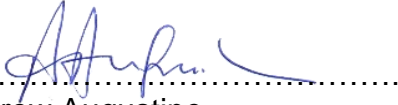
**Madam President made closing remarks.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Senate be adjourned sine die.

**Question put and agreed to.**

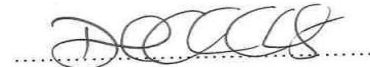
**The Sitting of the Senate adjourned at 7:50 p.m. sine die.**

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Augustine', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Andrew Augustine  
**CLERK OF PARLIAMENT**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dessima Williams', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Dessima Williams  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**