



GRENADA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Fifth Session of the Tenth Parliament

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, 8th March, 2022

**Sitting of the House of Representatives
held at the Parliament Chamber on Tuesday 8th March, 2022**

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Attendance

PRESENT

- | | |
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| Honourable Michael Pierre, MP, MBE, JP | - Mr. Speaker (In the Chair) |
| Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith Mitchell, PC, MP, JP
(St. George North-West) | - Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Management |
| Honourable Gregory Bowen, MP
(St. George South-East) | - Minister for Finance, Planning, Economic Development, Physical Development, Public Utilities and Energy |
| Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP
(St. Mark) | - Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Climate Resilience and the Environment |
| Honourable Alvin Da Breo, MP
(St. John) | - Minister for Trade, Industry and Consumer Affairs |
| Honourable Peter David, MP
(Town of St. George) | - Minister for Labour, Agriculture and Lands |
| Honourable Yolande Bain-Horsford, MP
(St. Andrew South-West) | - Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Co-operatives |
| Honourable Oliver Joseph, MP
(St. David) | - Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs |
| Honourable Kate Lewis, MP
(St. Andrew North-East) | - Minister within the Ministry of National Security Public Administration, Youth Development Home Affairs, ICT and Disaster Management wrf Youth Development |
| Honourable Pamela Moses
(St. Patrick East) | - Minister within the Ministry of National Security, Public Administration, Youth Development, Home Affairs, ICT and Disaster Management wrf Needy Assistance, Uniform Allowance, Special Projects and ICT |
| Honourable Nickolas Steele, MP
(St. George South) | - Minister for Health and Social Security |
| Honourable Delma Thomas, MP
(St. Andrew North-West) | - Minister in the Ministry of Health and Social Security wrf for Hospital Services, and Minister of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment |

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Attendance

Honourable Anthony Boatswain, MP
(St. Patrick West)

- Deputy Speaker

Honourable Tobias Clement, MP
(St. George North-East)

- Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition

ABSENT

(Excuse tendered)

Honourable Kindra Maturine-Stewart, MP
(Carriacou and Petite Martinique)

- Minister for Carriacou and Petite
Martinique Affairs, Local Government and
Legal Affairs

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP
(St. Andrew South-East)

- Minister for Education, Human Resource
Development, Religious Affairs and
Information

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**Prayers
Minutes**

The Sitting of the House of Representatives began at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, let us pray.

(House Prayer was said)

Mr. Speaker: Please join with me as we say together the Lord's Prayer.

(The Lord's Prayer was said)

Mr. Speaker: Pray be seated.

(Sound of gavel)

Mr. Speaker: This Honourable House is now in session.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 3 - Oath of Allegiance or affirmation of a new Member.

Item 4 - Confirmation of Minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to get the approval from you that we proceed in the same manner. The speaker would remove the mask and all the others would have it or the speaker should...

Mr. Speaker: Sure, we will go that way.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 1st February, 2022 be taken as read.

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**Minutes
Announcements
Papers / Reports**

Question proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Is it 2021?

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it is 2022.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes taken as read.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the said Minutes of the proceedings of the sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 1st February, 2022 be confirmed.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes Confirmed.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 5 - Messages from the Governor General.
Item 6 - Announcements by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I would just like to say thank you to all the beautiful women sitting in this Parliament Chamber. Today is the International Women's Day and I think it is only fitting... I was trying to write a nice little speech but after many hours of writing I came down to just this. Thank you for your service to mankind. **(Applause)**

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 7 - Presentation of Petitions.
Item 8 - Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select Committees.

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**Papers / Reports
Questions**

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Papers be laid on the Table: Report of the Grenville Commercial Complex Limited Financial Statements for the 17 month period ended December 31, 2020.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the Papers are laid at the Table.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 9 - Unopposed Private Business.
Item 10 - Questions.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition.

Hon. Tobias Clement: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question that is on the Paper, it was intended for the Minister of Legal Affairs. I know because of her condition she was not in Parliament now for a few months sitting well. So again that question would have to be deferred to another time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Tobias Clement: I just wanted to clarify though, the last time I asked the question in terms of the Minister for Education I did get the answer subsequently but my question to you, Mr. Speaker, if you can give me some clarity. If I need to ask a follow up question on the answer, do I have to put it in writing or do I ask the follow up question in Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: You may do both. You may put it in writing or you may ask it. It depends on the depth of the research that must be done to the answer. So if it is a follow up question based on what you have before you, you can.

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Motions**

Hon. Tobias Clement: Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Education is not here but I am sure that you saw the answer to the question but maybe when she comes again, maybe I would ask the question, in the upcoming semester for when school starts in August, will the parents have to pay registration as they did before. Because according to the answer she gave and according to the Education Act, there should be no fees charged for children entering Secondary School. So I wanted to know if that would be done or probably I might have to ask it in a written form.

Mr. Speaker: Sure.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 11 - Questions under the provisions of Standing Order No. 20 (1) (Notice of Questions).

Item 12 - Statements by Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have any statement by Ministers? Let's proceed.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 13 - Personal Explanations.

Item 14 - Motions.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. George South.

Hon. Nickolas Steele: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the resolution for the purpose of section 4 of the Quarantine Act, Chapter 271. Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS it is provided by section 4 (1) of the Quarantine Act Chapter 7 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the Minister may make regulations as respects to the whole or any part of Grenada including the ports and coastal waters thereof for preventing:

- a). danger to public health from ships or aircraft or persons or things herein arriving at any place; and

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b). the spread of infection by means of any ship or aircraft about to leave any place or by means of any person or thing about to leave any place in any ship or aircraft;

AND WHEREAS it is provided in section 4 (3) of the Act that regulations made under section 4(1) of the Act shall not have any force or effect until confirmed by resolution of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS on the 23rd day of November, 2021 the Minister with responsibility for Health made the Quarantine (COVID-19) Regulations, 2021 and on the 30th day of November, 2021 the House of Representatives by resolution confirmed the Quarantine (COVID-19) Regulations, 2021;

AND WHEREAS it is now expedient that the Quarantine (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 attached hereto as a schedule be confirmed by the House of Representatives to amend the Quarantine (COVID-19) (Regulations), 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of section 4 (3) of the Act that the Quarantine (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2022 be now confirmed by the House of Representatives.

Question proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Nickolas Steele: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this pandemic is constantly evolving and we are at a point we believe the new phase... it's become most obvious to many of us what this phase means. This is, not just for Grenada but for most countries in the world if not all, a phase of easement, cautious in most cases but a phase of easement, a phase of moving on, a phase of getting back to a new norm. And as such with respect to the Quarantine Act, two specific aspects of it, first the health declaration. We moved previously from having a permission to enter to a health declaration, just simply declaring your status with respect to COVID-19. So declaring before boarding a flight your status which would have said whether you were vaccinated or not, whether you are a citizen of Grenada or not and

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what sort of history you would have had in the last 48 or 21 days, did you visit certain areas of high risk and whether you have a COVID-19 test or not, PCR test. Are you prepared to quarantine once you arrive in Grenada, what are the arrangements; all of these things were done. We've moved to a simpler form because the assessed risk globally is much lower and as such we are varying the health declaration form in two major aspects.

The first aspect is that it's going to ask just for simple traveller details, name, passport number, date of arrival and age and it is going to ask for your citizenship because there is a separation there. After that it simply asks you to declare whether you are vaccinated or not and whether you have the appropriate COVID-19 test; PCR or now rapid antigen which is the second part of this resolution and that's it in essence what you will have to declare. Further to this though of significance is that this is a health declaration and in the same way you have immigration declaration and a customs declaration and these are things that you declare on arrival. The significance of this is that the health declaration and the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation is in the process of sending this communication out as well, that you will no longer need to present this declaration before you board a flight to come to Grenada. You will need to present this declaration or fill out this declaration before you get health clearance on arrival in Grenada and as such, it greatly reduces some of the stress and restrictions of travel. You will see that we are not alone in this, many other nations are making this adjustment.

The second part of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is to allow for in essence rapid antigen test as well as the PCR test. But because the science is different or what the rapid antigen test picks up is different is what the PCR test picks up, the timelines need to be different. So you can have a PCR test that is not more than three days old to enter Grenada or to begin your journey to Grenada. But what we have found is that many other countries; the United States in particular where many of our citizens visit, members of our diaspora are coming back from and our Tourism market seeks to capture visitors from, it is extremely difficult for them to get a PCR test even within three days of travel. While here we are able to provide a PCR test result within 24 hours for any and every one who comes for it but in other countries, in the United States it is not as easy so we recognise this and as such it has become

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necessary for us to allow a second type of test to facilitate knowing someone's status before they enter Grenada or before they board a flight. So we are allowing the rapid antigen test within 24 hours of your flight so one day before your flight. And for clarity, we have found and thank you, it is one day. So you can get the antigen test the day before because there is a little confusion when you say 24 hours, if you take it in the morning, the day before or the afternoon. A rapid antigen in most if not all cases, the results are available within 15 minutes of taking the test. So we are seeking to make it easier for persons to come in. And, Mr. Speaker, the situation is moving quite quickly, Grenada, this Government, the people of Grenada like everyone else in the world, we are quite anxious to get back to normal. So I look forward to and it is not an impossibility, it is actually quite probable and possible that we will be back here again making some further adjustments to this and the other regulations and restrictions in the not too distant future. And if I can speak for my sister from St. Mark who, I am sure will speak to this as well that we look forward to this with a sense of urgency and excitement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark.

Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution as presented by the Member for South St. George and Minster for Health. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the trending globally in terms of how different countries treat with COVID at this time. There seems to be a race to loosen up and open up and ease on the protocols. There is a sense of urgency to get back or to attempt to regain some of the losses we've had, the social losses where we lost interaction with each other. The academic losses where our children were not able to go to school and were not able again interact and socialise with each other and get the full benefit of the teaching and the training of their educators. We have also seen the urgency for businesses to get back on track and it is no different as we look at the Tourism Sector, the lockdowns and the inability to move around have impacted all of us globally perhaps the young people even more than the younger ones. But also it has created that desire to travel, persons want to go to other countries and so we've seen our numbers of visitors increasing. Hotels are

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talking about the increase in bookings, it's slowly but we're getting there and so every country is a serious competitor in the Tourism Industry and the tourist would want to go wherever the protocols are most lenient, where there seem to be more reasonable, where they are more easily understood and all of that. And therefore without any reservation I support this resolution because I believe that it is going to make us as competitive as the others. Give us the opportunity to welcome or to woo visitors to our shores and to welcome them when they do come. Only yesterday I saw three cruise ships in our port, two on the cruise ship port and one down on the older port, Mr. Speaker. And you know travelling down the Western Side and I am sure some would probably see it on the Eastern Side, you see those tourist boats and the tourist busses and it brings a sense of relief that people are getting back to revenue generation and so on and we're happy for that, but we must change some of our protocols. If we are going to be competitive we must loosen up a bit. We have to be rational though and we must not be too quick to jump but I believe that Government guided by the Ministry of Health has demonstrated that trend that while we are loosening up, we are cautiously doing and I want to commend that. So, Mr. Speaker, it is without any hesitation that I support this and I look forward to growth in the Tourism Industry, to growth in the business sector and to... a little bit more liberation for our people so that we can breathe more freely. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Representative for St. Mark. Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Tobias Clement: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to support that resolution that is laid before this Honourable House but I do so letting history be our guide. I do believe a couple years ago, Mr. Speaker, when we were at this point in March of 2020, I mentioned that when you research the Spanish Flu of 2017-2019, almost a mirror reflection of what is taking place here today and it was after the second wave in 2019 that the world decided, ok, let's just go back as to where we were because again the eagerness was there. But I do believe that we ought to be mindful, very mindful that yes I am looking at the United States, England,

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France, Canada and all of them are relaxing their regulations and protocols and so forth, but where are they? Mr. Speaker, they are above 70% vaccinated, they are and we cannot doubt that. And so because of that they could go back maybe to a sense of normalcy and probably we might be following in line. But I will still indicate to our people, we have to behave ourselves well and behave ourselves sensibly just in case... because I mean I will continue to advocate for people to... given the opportunity, get yourself immunised against COVID-19. Still just last week Friday, Mr. Speaker, I have a neighbour of mine in Mardigras who passed away because of COVID knowing that it is still real. But sometimes I do believe our people can become complacent and just let your guard down and in my mind we still have to advocate people to behave themselves wisely so that we can overcome this dreaded disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Question put and agreed.

Motion approved.

Ag. Clerk Assistant: Item 15 - Bills.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence in taking the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2022 before the Legal Profession Act, if you would so permit, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Companies (Amendment) Bill? Is that what we're going at first?

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Sure.

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Hon. Gregory Bowen: This is on the Order Paper as the second on the Bill. I am asking your permission to take it first.

Mr. Speaker: Sure. Sure.

Clerk: A Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap 58A, shortly entitled Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point with your leave, I will propose, Mr. Speaker, to beg that the Bill shortly entitled the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 be read a first time.

(Clerk converse with Mr. Speaker in private)

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the House be suspended at this sitting in order to take the bill through all its stages.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

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Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a continuation of the oversight of the international community. Some of it desired but some of it is to ensure that the developed world look in and control the expenditure of their people with respect to investing. Some may refer to it as tax savings etc. etc. but in this particular case, Mr. Speaker, from a visit of the Anti-Money Laundering and The Terrorism Organisation, the worldwide organisation then you have various regions, the Caribbean, C for Caribbean Financial Action Taskforce and E for the European and A for the Americas and so forth.

In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, the concentration is on anti-money laundering and terrorist attack. We would recall, Mr. Speaker, in this particular Honourable place so many years ago and I repeat it here today, that it was this organisation that brought churches into the fray by saying you must do certain things. Yes the world say were they wrong? But at that particular time, Mr. Speaker, the churches in various countries were used to finance attacks... not many but one... we say one bad apple spoil the... So worldwide, churches had to report and to do certain things with respect to the anti-money laundering and terrorism activities and monitoring throughout the world. In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, we are zeroing in on the company and in June last year, this organisation towed the region, Grenada was one of them. They may have hinted at it before but it was during that visit that the zeroed in on the companies and which component of the company at this particular time? Bearer of shares and we know what barer of Share are? It is a share certificate given to you and it says paid to be bearer but it does not identify who the beneficial ownership of the shares are. So you could trade it, trade it, trade it and you would get your benefits from it. But now with the world zeroing in on anti-money laundering, and at this particular time, maybe terrorism activities, this amendment is to require that there shall be no such bearer shares and the beneficiaries of all shares must be known and kept in a Registry and that's the essence of this. You fail to do this, Mr. Speaker, you hear you're on Blacklist here, there, everywhere.

As I commenced, I indicated that there are some activities that's desirables, but there are those that are not Mr. Speaker. Those where the developed countries try to prevent their citizens from investing in your country, or make it extremely

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difficult for them to move funds into the less developed countries. That may not be so desirable, but this one, Mr. Speaker, I don't think any one of us in the developed or the less developed country could say, no, that you know, we do not wish to do this, and they're forcing this one down our throat, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, *"the Bill seeks to amend section 29 of the principal Act,"* the Companies Act, *"to expressly prohibit the issuance of bearer shares, certificates or warrants. It provides for the insertion of a new section, section 127A to section 127D of the principal Act, to establish a regulatory regime for approval of increased control in a company. Before a person can acquire shares amounting to 10% of ownership, the regulatory authority must examine the proposed threshold and conduct a fit and proper test. The regulatory authority is the Grenada Authority for the Regulations of Financial Institutions (GARFIN). The process is required whenever a person seeks to move from one category to control or to another,"* from one to another. *"The following are the categories,"* Mr. Speaker, *"10% shareholders controller,"* with a percentage of 10 or more but less than 20. So, if you want to hold between 10% to 20% of a company, you have to seek permission and GARFIN must look at you, investigate and say, yes, your intentions are noble and honourable and as such, the company will flourish, to bring up the GDP and other areas in the country and you yourself would want to make a profit. So, you want to change from 8% to 12%, go, that is you're acquiring shares. So we want to know why you are acquiring it and the potential for your doing damage with the shares and damage means the money laundering and the terrorism financing, Mr. Speaker.

The next category will be 20%, but less than 30%. So, you could go from 5% to 25%, still we will investigate, or you could go from 15% to 21%, the investigation will be done, Mr. Speaker. And the next category will be 30% to 40%, and 40% to 50%, 50% to 60%, 60% to 75% and the next category referred to as a principal shareholder, with a percentage of 75% or more. And in all these transactions, as you go forward, we must know exactly who is doing what.

"Clause 4 provides for the insertion of a new Part VIA to the principal Act, to create new obligations for the companies to declare all beneficial owners through the maintenance of a beneficial ownership registry subject to the inspection of the Registrar of the Corporate Affairs of Intellectual Property Office." And *"Clause 4 also*

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includes a transitional period of 6 months for existing companies to comply with the new obligations.” So when you have your register of shares, not only must we see who owns the share, and it must have nothing about bearer shares in this, so you got to change that, you have six months to change it, Mr. Speaker.

“Clause 5 provides for amendment to section 330A (1) of the principal Act to create the obligation for non-profit companies to give notice of changes in beneficial ownership within 15 days of the change occurring.” So non-profit organisations and I think churches fall under this, they must report and do the same thing to the Registrar.

“Clause 7 provides for the amendment of section 543 (1) of the principal Act to revise the definition of “beneficial owner”, to reflect the definition of the same term in the Proceeds of Crime...” you see, we have this one already there, so, we’re saying beef the other one. The beneficial owners, we’re bringing up Companies Act to the same thing, *“(Anti- Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Guidelines, 2012 (as amended). Clause 7 also inserts a definition of “Authority” to refer to the Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions.”*

So what we’re saying, Mr. Speaker, as you go down through this here, you will see partnership owning, and companies owning. And that is correct, companies do own shares in other companies. But that’s not good enough, Mr. Speaker, we want to know the physical person, not the corporate person who controls the company, and even if that person is controlled by another person, we need to know the ultimate owner of this. Why? Because we want to know on whom to pounce for terrorist financing, and who is ultimately responsible if there’s anything about money laundering. In other words, you hear them in the big countries, you hear them debate in the Parliaments, you hear the big organisations, they want to pounce on the anti-money laundering person. And this is not the one you put in between you know, you put a middle man and a half middle man and a quarter middle man, and you’re surrounded up here, then nobody knows who you are. What this amendment is saying, we must know who that ultimate owner is and he or she must be recorded in a Registry in Grenada.

A matter of fact, this is not pertinent only to Grenada, the whole region, when the big organisation came down, they didn’t only go to Grenada, you know, they did

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the hemisphere, they went to the Caribbean and they went to Latin America, and another team went to Europe, and another team went to the US. So, we're only a small part of it. And as we have said here on many occasions, it is not an issue that you can say no to because immediately they slash you, Blacklist one way. Right, anything with danger, Red List the next way, can't come to the colours like white and so forth because that connotes that you're doing well, but any colour that will signal you are a bad person or a bad organisation, that's the sort of listing that you will get throughout the world. And what happens, the Member for St. David always point to this, first thing they take away is your corresponding bank. So you have EC dollars, and you want to purchase things abroad, no, you can't because you can't get that change to your corresponding bank to an international currency. You might trade between here and St. Vincent, because that's the same currency we use. So this, Mr. Speaker, is extremely important. They came in June, they will be coming back sometime in April or May, and then they will come back again to give you a final report. Within that six months, if we have not implemented this, whether we like it or not, if we have not implemented this, then you will hear on the big world, Grenada is Blacklisted, Grenada is encouraging anti-money laundering and terrorism financing and as such the consequences are a, b, c and d. So not many of those that we love, we always give our opinion, our honest opinion in this Honourable Place, but I want to conclude my presentation by saying, some we do not like but some we cannot go against.

With this, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. George South.

Hon. Nickolas Steele: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Bill. Mr. Speaker, there are maybe less than ten countries in the world now that still maintain some form of immobile bearer shares. No country has mobile bearer shares anymore. And the very concept is something that, okay, speaks to nefarious practices and therefore, we support that. Why would somebody want to own something, but not want anyone to know that they own it? And that is the basic principle that we cannot

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argue with. While we do not appreciate the regulations and the cost of these regulations constantly to us, we recognise when the principle makes sense. In today's world, why would somebody want to own something and not want anyone to know that they own it? That is the simple principle here that we cannot argue with. So it is with that in mind, I think, I do not think I need to say much more on it. It has been said by the Minister for Finance and Leader of Government's Business, and simply again, I would repeat. Why would somebody want to own something and not want anyone to know they own it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Tobias Clement: Mr. Speaker, I just have one little clarification that somebody might be able to help me with in terms of the percentage share. Okay, we ought to state or get to know every time we increase 10% increment. But section (g) says, a "*principal shareholder controller means a shareholder controller in whose case the per cent is 75% or more.*" Mr. Speaker, I would think that if I have shares in a company, when I cross 50% in terms of holdings, I become the principal shareholder. But this here is saying, 75% or more. Why 75% or more? I mean, if we are to know, it should have been at 50 plus one, but this says 75% or more.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the context of the 75% and maybe Legal Affairs could tell us, it is implied in our Laws that the minority shareholders have certain rights. So you may be the majority shareholders, but there are certain decisions that you cannot take. In the business development and doing normal business, you go to the vote and then the 51% would carry. But if you unilaterally have over 50% and you wish to do certain things, you cannot exclude the minority shareholders from that decision making. The figure 75 is to indicate that at 75, no matter how the minority goes up or down or after, they do have all the controlling rights, and you can carry out certain decisions. And why they put it here is that, you know, everything is linked back to the Money Laundering and Anti-

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Terrorism Financing. So yes, and that is something we have discussed before. What are the rights of the minority shareholders, in our case, in Grenada, and we're still looking at the Companies Act. It implies a lot of things and whether or not we should not make it so very clear that the minorities have certain rights. So that 75% says above that, there is little that a minority can do, you now become the principal and you could run the organisation unilaterally.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. David.

Hon. Oliver Joseph: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give my support to the amendment to this Bill. We have discussed this original Bill and we know the intention, you see with the advent of technology and the way money moving around the world, if you do not have this regulation, it is simply to beat the system you know, very simple. So what we are doing here is ensuring that these amendments that we're making will ensure transparency and that is why the bearer share is so important in this discussion because you issue a cheque to the bearer, you don't know who is the bearer, so, that's a good way to hide your money. So it is important that we pass these regulations to ensure, as I said, transparency. But if there is any objection to the application to become a shareholder, you have a right of appeal under section 127B. It says, "*A person who has been denied the right to own shares may appeal to the High Court against the decision of the authority.*" So you have that right. Sometimes we think we pass Laws and we take away the rights of people, so I just thought it necessary to highlight that, that you can go to the Appeals Court. And section 136B, where you have Part VI that refers to beneficial ownership, there are some exemptions there that I think is important. It says, "*The following companies, entities or vehicles, and any subsidiary are exempt from Part VI*" not the entire Act, you know from Part VI at least the categories, "*a company whose shares are enlisted and appointed stock exchange.*" So if you are listed on the stock exchange, then that company is exempted from Part VI and "*a financial institution that have control under the Banking Act*", because you already have the Banking Act that controls that and therefore, they are exempt. So I just wanted to point out one, that they have the right to appeal and two, Part VI, there are some exemptions there.

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But as the mover of the Bill and Minister of Finance, did elucidate quite clearly the purpose of this Bill and therefore I give it my full support. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Representative for St. David. Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I commend all my colleagues in this Honourable Place for their support for the Bill. It shows the understanding, Mr. Speaker, of what is happening in the external world, not whether you like or dislike, but knowledge and understanding. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that you do locally that is not impacted by the global community and global happenings. So if you want to manage financial sectors or any sector in this country, you must ultimately know what is happening out there, otherwise, the world will just come crashing down on you and you will not realise where you are, Mr. Speaker.

In the particular case, Mr. Speaker, as the Member for St. David said, with this happening all over the world, we will exempt certain companies when you put your stocks on the market, because you buy and sell very quickly on the market out there. So the bell rings ping-a-ling and your brokers and agents out there. So we will not stop to see who buys what at that particular point, it is legitimate. But when that buyer goes back to his or her country, he is going to state that you have bought such and such and they must register in their particular country. And so, the international reach of the regulation and monitoring is still there. But if you chop it at certain point, you will not let business continue. And of course, those mightier than we are will have certain privileges in their own country. And anything we do now, I think Legal Affairs has made it abundantly clear to us, somebody could always bring a case under the Constitution and say their rights were prohibited and therefore you should let them you know, appeal. There are certain things that you must put as Law and, if we don't put that we leave room, you know, for challenges. And remember, Mr. Speaker, we have six months before... we have a Task Force in Grenada dealing with these things, the Attorney General, the PS Finance, etc., they're part of that Task Force, they go abroad regularly. If we don't do it in six months, then they must explain why Grenada has not done it within the time period and we must hasten to

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get it done. I've already indicated the consequences of not doing it. And this one, Mr. Speaker, as with some others that have come before this Honourable place, I say, one day we may get out of it. The Member for St. Patrick West has always expressed his dislike for being pushed into certain things. But we have to say, Lord, help us to accept what we cannot change and give us the power and the will to change what we can. So in this context, Mr. Speaker, I move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House resolves itself in a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill, Clause by Clause.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

House resumes.

Mr. Speaker: I have to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendment. Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time.

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Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for the Town of St. George.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill, 2022. Mr. Speaker, this Bill here this morning seeks to...

Mr. Speaker: We have not reached there yet.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker...

(The Clerk advised the Speaker that the first reading was already done on that Bill)

Mr. Speaker: Okay, good. Yeah, well that Bill was read a first time already, so please proceed. My mistake! Honourable Parliamentary Representative for the Town of St. George, please proceed with the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Peter David: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise for the second reading of the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Question proposed.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Representative for St. George.

Hon. Peter David: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Legal Profession Act, No. 25 of 2011, which came into effect in 2012. Mr. Speaker, it's a fairly simple Bill that seeks to make some corrections and some additions where necessary. Mr. Speaker, the General Legal Council, a body that oversees the application of this Bill to the profession has been very active. In fact,

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Mr. Speaker, they've been receiving complaints, making recommendations, all with the intention of not only ensuring that the legal profession is kept within the bounds of proper practice, but also to ensure that public confidence is raised and maintained with respect to their interaction and their workings with the legal profession.

Mr. Speaker, the GLC is led by the well-known and respected retired Justice Roslyn Wilkinson. She's well known in the profession, not only locally, but certainly having been a Judge in the region and practiced in the region. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, they now have a website where decisions of the Council can be read where the work of the Council and the activities of the Council can be followed. So, I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the Council has been doing its share of the work, but it has found it necessary to make some recommendations to this Parliament for amendments to the Bill that allows them to function. So these amendments we are proposing today, Mr. Speaker, is as a result of the work of the Council, and proposals in order to make the work of the Council much easier and much better functional for the purpose that they're set out to do.

One of the functions, Mr. Speaker, of the GLC is to issue, practicing certificates. And this brings me to the first recommendation that they will make. They issue practicing certificates on the basis of the adequacy of the persons presenting themselves as Attorneys to practice Law, to ensure not only that they are proper certified, but there are certain things that they have. So for example, it is necessary that they have continuing legal education, just as doctors have to ensure that as the science develops, they get the training necessary. You know COVID-19 has taught all doctors a lot and I'm sure there are all kinds of courses available now to medical practitioners to ensure that they come up to speed, not only with COVID-19, but with other things that come as a result of research into COVID-19. Just the same, Mr. Speaker, that it is necessary for lawyers to do what's called Continuing Legal Education, so you keep up to speed, keep up to speed with the new learning, with the new teachings in the profession, because there are always developments. Courts are always making new Law because you have a Common Law Jurisdiction, the Parliaments pass new Law and that has to be done annually. Every year according to recommendations of the GLC and on the workings of the GLC that must be done annually.

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Secondly, they have to have indemnity insurance just as doctors. Doctors are sued all the time. In fact, I practiced in a jurisdiction many years ago where it's very litigious; people sue doctors, they sue lawyers, they sue accountants, they sue everybody in sight. That is why one of their recommendations is that the Law be amended to change the certificates from being issued for two year periods to one year periods because the continual legal education is being done annually and the indemnity insurance is annually. So there is a recommendation before this House that we change the practicing certificate from two years to one year and that, Mr. Speaker, makes absolute sense in keeping with the actual environment within which lawyers practice. So that is one recommendation, Mr. Speaker, that the period for practicing certificates be reduced from two years to one year. In other jurisdictions in the region, it's the same and that's another reason why it's being done, to get it in keeping with other jurisdictions in the region.

The other, Mr. Speaker, is to remove, Mr. Speaker, to change in... there was a typographical error in the Act itself where there was reference to section 7 (3) in reference to definition of what "Member" means. It's changed to section 5 (2) rather than section... amending the definition of "Member" in section 2 to correct an incorrect reference in the section and insert a definition for the term "practice of law". Mr. Speaker, there is a new definition for "practice of law" and that definition, Mr. Speaker, has to be inserted.

Mr. Speaker, another amendment proposed is that the Council be allowed, as a result of COVID-19 that the Council be allowed to hold meetings virtually. Again we've learnt from COVID-19 that not all meetings can be held physically. Therefore there is a need to change the Law to allow the General Legal Council to hold meetings virtually and that again... Clause 3 inserts a new section 12A to allow the Council to hold virtual meetings. I don't think there will be any difficulty on that. That just brings the Council up to speed to what has become a norm in the post COVID period.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, the new amendments that we are asking is to empower the Minister in consultation with the Council to make regulations to prescribe the fees payable for the issuance of practicing certificates and to make, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations in that regard. So that is Clause 5 and inserts a new

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section 59A to empower the Minister in consultation with the Council to make regulations to prescribe the fees payable for the issuance of practicing certificates to attorneys-at-law. So, Mr. Speaker, the amendments recommended are not substantial in the sense that it makes any major changes to the legislation itself but just to form how the Council operates and as I said when I started these recommendations come from the Council itself in order to enhance its work.

So, Mr. Speaker, we place before the Parliament the recommendations of the Council, there is also a new definition inserted “practice of law”. What does practice of law means? And it is being inserted, Mr. Speaker, amendment of section 2 of the principal Act, “practice of law”. It says *“the application of legal principles and judgments regarding the circumstances or objectives of another person that requires the knowledge and skill of a person trained in law and includes...”* and goes through a list of things in defining what practice of law means. That is also being presented here today as an amendment to this Bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, all in all these are very short but very important recommendations, one, to change the certificates from two years to one year; to insert, Mr. Speaker, the provision which defines practice which talks about practice of law to change the definition of Member and repeal a typographical error, 7 (3) and insert section 5 (2), Mr. Speaker, and to empower the Minister to make the recommendations with respect to the Minister in consultation with the Council to make regulations prescribing the fees that are payable.

Mr. Speaker, all in all what this seeks to do is to ensure that the General Legal Council has the proper tools in its toolkit to ensure that attorneys practice in keeping with the best standards both regionally and internationally. As I said when I started, Mr. Speaker, this is aimed at ensuring that attorneys, one, that the public has confidence. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of public complaints about attorneys, doctors and other professionals, accountants and these professional bodies are there to ensure not only that attorneys keep within good practice but that the public has confidence that they do that. I remember, Mr. Speaker, when I practiced in another jurisdiction, when you received a letter from a group called a Grievance Committee, you was scared to open it because you wondered what did I do that’s not in keeping with the regulations and it was good

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because I ensured in my practice in that jurisdiction that everything was done properly not for myself, not for the State but for the clients whom I represented. And that is the importance of this, Mr. Speaker, and the public must have confidence. We are not casting any aspersions on anybody.

There are good Attorneys doing very well and there are Attorneys who might not be so good and who might find that there is nothing keeping them. That is why we have Laws. If we didn't have Laws then people will resort to all kinds of things that are not good for good practice between ourselves. So the General Legal Council is there to ensure that attorneys, as doctors, as accountants in their own professional bodies act in keeping with good practice so that the public is well served, so that the public has confidence that they are being well served but importantly, that if the public has a complaint, that person can go to a body of persons who are entrusted with this legislation to ensure that they get some kind of redress.

And I must say that the GLC up to now has been performing well, they have been... Mr. Speaker, it's the initial stages, this is just a couple of years since they get going. They're just about to begin the issue of practice certificates but I must say that this recommendation as the Bill itself is a good step, Mr. Speaker, in ensuring that the public is well served by attorneys and everyone, Mr. Speaker, comes into contact with a lawyer one day. If it's not a marriage, it's a divorce, if it's not a divorce, it's a death to do some kind of actions. Not necessarily because you committed any crime, attorneys are not there only as I practice, Mr. Speaker, as criminal defence. They are there to serve well, they are there to help us through, and they are there to do good things. All this legislation is aimed at doing is to enhance the body that is there to ensure that the public whom attorneys serve and as I said just like doctors. I want to make sure, Mr. Speaker, if I go into a doctor's office I want to know where did he train, how long has he been practicing because you know if you're not practicing for long... I prefer someone with a little more experience. Sometimes I wish they had that in the planes too, how long has a pilot been flying. I would hate to go on a plane and the Pilot, it's his first flight.

But in any event, all of these professionals have bodies that regulate them and this body that we are refereeing to, the GLC is there to regulate not because

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you're saying that all attorneys do wrong or all attorneys this and that. I am one myself. Simply to ensure that the public has confidence that when they go to someone that that someone is properly regulated and doing the right things. They have the continuous legal education; they have indemnity fees in case they get sued and they can't pay somebody will pay me for my loss. All of these things, Mr. Speaker, are here to protect you, all of us. I too, do retain counsel myself sometimes. It is said "a lawyer who has himself as an attorney has a fool for a lawyer" so I myself find myself if I'm in need of counsel.

So I am just saying in a long way the amendment here, Mr. Speaker, is to improving the services to our community by the legal profession. I am sure the legal profession itself is quite happy to have this to ensure that their public has more confidence in them so that the public will come to them more often and have confidence that when they come, they're getting good services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for St. Patrick West.

Hon. Anthony Boatswain: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my support to the amendments to the principal Law as outlined by the Member for the Town of St. George, himself is a practicing lawyer and I guess he is a very good one at that. Mr. Speaker, I was gratified by the extent to which the Member went at length to try to convince the public that we must have confidence in the legal profession, we should. But in practice, do we? Mr. Speaker, I am saying that what is here is just maybe 1/8 of an inch of what is required to get that level of public confidence in the legal profession and we have to be frank about that. Public confidence in the legal profession is extremely low and it is because of what we call that... they say lawyers operate as a club.

The Member speaks about indemnity fees. When was the last time a lawyer took another lawyer to Court? Lawyers hardly do that, it's a club and we know that and people are concerned about that. They have expressed their concern that they go to a lawyer and surprisingly the lawyer they go to is also the same lawyer representing the person they bring their case against. Yes, you have a Council but

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in practice, Mr. Speaker, we're not seeing the outcomes of those amendments to ensure that the public should have confidence. The perception, Mr. Speaker, is still there that the public do not have confidence because of certain practices, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that it will take much more than what the Member has presented here today... albeit, it is a very good recommendation for change but I do not believe that those recommendations, Mr. Speaker, go far enough in changing public perception. For what I have said, some people still believe that going to a lawyer to get justice is really, it's an arduous task and the Member is aware of that. Look at how he is smiling **(laughter)** it is not that easy, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to go into details but experiences but it's not working. It's not working as it ought to because the perception of that club, that lawyers consist of a lodge and they do not... a lawyer will not really take another lawyer to court or to persecute another lawyer, it's still there. Sometimes it takes ages before justice could be served.

There are people who complain that they have given their property to certain lawyers and the property just you know... they have lost their property overtime and so many complaints, Mr. Speaker, that... I am not too impressed at this stage with those recommendations. Yes they are good but I think we have to go far more, Mr. Speaker, to regain... I wouldn't say regain because I don't think it was there before but for the public to have that level of confidence in the legal profession. We need more than what is being presented and I think the Member should go back to the Members on his Council and to identify the key elements of complain that the public do have with regards to the practices with some of our lawyers, Mr. Speaker, and that is my concern at this time.

Yes good recommendation for change but not deep enough to change public perception of lawyers in Grenada especially where they do not take any action against their own brother or sister... their own colleagues. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Parliamentary Representative. Honourable parliamentary Representative for St. George North-West.

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Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, of course I stand to support the Bill as presented by the Minister responsible for Agriculture and Member for the Town of St. George. Like the Member for St. Patrick West, I'll say that it's a first step but clearly a lot more is required. There is indeed a confidence deficit as far as the profession. I know the Member who is a lawyer, practiced for years understands the concerns out there in the country as a whole. Many of us individually and otherwise find great difficulty finding a lawyer that we can feel a sense of trust in when we have a serious issue to deal with and many times we have to go outside of the country for simple legal advice and support and that's a fact. Whether we want to agree with it or not, that's how the people feel and in fact the poor persons in the country suffer more than anybody else because those of us in a position to understand the system will know what we need to do to get the best legal support. But the ordinary man he has to go back and forth and being pushed around and given all sorts of excuses and face the consequences of sometimes poor decisions in the court simply because a court can only rule on the case as presented. And if a case is not properly presented, then clearly the person won't win. But I think also it brings to mind, Mr. Speaker, the issue and not just the legal profession, I think the same thing in the medical profession, there is a serious confidence deficit there. And maybe you can say in the case of the medical profession it's probably worse because you're talking about life and death and the question you ask is... I have been around for a lot of years and the fact is, how many times have we seen in Grenada a doctor or a lawyer have had his practice suspended or his license revoked? I don't remember and I think we all know the number of cases where in fact these situations warrants some serious action and you have not heard it and sometimes when some of us are brave enough to issue a public criticism that may come up against the powers to be, that we are being unfair to the persons in the profession especially in the case of the medical institutions.

And there has to be some more brave men and women in the system who will speak out because those of us who are speaking out are not lawyers or doctors, may not be in the ideal position to do so. So it is something that I honestly believe... but in speaking to the new President of the Bar Association one of the things they said to me in a discussion recently is that he is committed to make a difference in that

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particular area without going into specifics. And I think having practiced for years himself he probably understood the concerns outside there, not what we feel individually, it's what the strong perception is outside. And if we hope to be responsible as leaders in the various institutions that we have, then we have to take on the concerns of the people and do what we can.

So I hope and pray and certainly would love to see what he has indicated come to fruition because we all feel strongly about this and therefore as Members of Parliament certainly we would give our absolute support to any changes that occur which of course bring confidence to the people in the country as a whole. So I want to commend the Minister for bringing this, at least a first stage and of course the Member for St. Patrick West for his comments related to that specific matter. So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to give my full support to the second reading of this Bill.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Parliamentary Representative for the Town of St. George.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the Members for the full support and I do take on board their comments. In fact I do support the comments made because the truth is this is what this whole thing is aimed at, lifting the confidence of the people in it and it depends on two groups of people, one, the lawyers themselves and then the general public to come forward and indicate if they having problems with any particular attorney. Of course we live in a small society and it's always difficult as the Member for St. Patrick said. Yes, there are difficulties but at least the Government is taking a step in that direction to try to find a way to hold persons accountable.

You see the question is... it exists and it's not only a difficult thing in Grenada, in countries like the U.S.; that is why you have the Grievance Committee. Every day you can read the newspaper in New York which lawyer has been disbarred, which lawyer has been charged, which lawyer has been sent to prison. In fact there are a couple of Grenadian attorneys who find themselves in serious trouble in the United States as a result of malpractice. So malpractice is not restricted to our jurisdiction.

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It exists in all jurisdictions but the question is and this is where what Government is doing is important, what mechanism do you put in place to keep men and women away from their worst instincts sometimes which takes them in the wrong direction? And the reason why I said this earlier, that all attorneys should be on board with this, is because the good attorneys and by good I mean the attorneys who are in keeping with all of the proper norms of good practice are being tarnished by the actions of a few. And that is what this is about; the GLC and that is why I believe that we should all cooperate with it. All attorneys and attorneys should see this as an attempt to help their practice because if the public has confidence, the public will be prepared. People are prepared to pay their monies to get lawyers you know but they are just, as the Member for St. Patrick said and Prime Minister also reiterated, it is that question of public confidence. So we urge all attorneys to cooperate, we urge all the associations to cooperate with the GLC because this is not aimed at attacking anything except bad practice. That is all this is aimed at attacking, bad practice and bad practitioners. Persons who are doing the proper thing, they will not have any issues.

When you have indemnity insurance, it is aimed at indemnifying persons who lost as a result of malpractice. When you have the issue here about the on-going training, it is to get people up to speed with the Law. I myself spent 30 years in Court and I have had to represent people all over this country and in other jurisdictions free of charge because it is difficult for some people to get lawyers to even give what we call free service which is something lawyers should want to do. Many big law firms in the United States say 10% of their practice will be given to indigent persons who cannot afford to pay for practice. Mr. Speaker, I did much more than 10% in Grenada but you know I think all attorneys should commit themselves to that also because that lifts the image of the profession as not being persons who just want to be greedy and take rather than give sometimes. And those things... that I am saying, not only should we do what we have to do legislatively but lawyers themselves have to come together to do things for the community and with the community that enhances their image which includes as I said giving a certain amount of their practice to persons who cannot afford it. Have free clinics, I know when I was at a certain firm in St. George's we did it every year.

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So yes, Member for St. Patrick West I know this is just 1/8 of 1%, you said, I think was your words but it is our step. Now it is up to persons out there including practitioners and as the Prime Minister indicated not only in law. Doctors must understand also that they too have that kind of commitment especially in terms of many of our practitioners in all of these fields receiving their early education free of cost in Grenada. And some of them getting it free of cost in Cuba and other places; give back. I think what we are trying to do here and I just use the opportunity to say to my colleagues and other professionals out there, we have to give a little something to people who can't afford it because at the end of the day without what we got from the farmers and workers in this country in terms of our early education we ain't nowhere. And that, Mr. Speaker, is why I want to say thanks to the Members for supporting and, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary Representative for the Town of St. George.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

House resumes.

Mr. Speaker: I have to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments. Honourable Parliamentary Representative for the Town of St. George.

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Adjournment**

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Parliamentary...

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, 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 - Request for leave to move the adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Gregory Bowen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the adjournment of this Honourable House, sine die.

Question proposed.

Mr. Speaker: As is usual, Members you are now able to address the House in any way that is important to you or to your constituency. If we have none...

Question put and agreed to.

The House adjourned sine die at 10:45 a.m.

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