



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**

### PRESENT

*House of Representatives*

Mr. Speaker  
The Honourable Leo Cato  
*in the Chair*

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, MP  
*(St. David)*

- Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation

Honourable Philip A. Telesford, MP  
*(St. George South-East)*

- Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs

Honourable Joseph Andall, MP  
*(St. Patrick West)*

- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development

Honourable Lennox J. Andrews, MP  
*(St. Andrew South-West)*

- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives

Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP  
*(Carriacou & Petite Martinique)*

- Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP ( <i>St. Patrick East</i> )	- Minister for Finance
Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP ( <i>St. John</i> )	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP ( <i>St. George North-East</i> )	- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP ( <i>St. Andrew North-West</i> )	- Member
Honourable Andy Williams, MP ( <i>South St. George</i> )	- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP ( <i>St. George North-West</i> )	- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP ( <i>St. Mark</i> )	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Peter David, MP ( <i>Town of St. George</i> )	- Member
Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP ( <i>St. Andrew North-East</i> )	- Member
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP ( <i>St. Andrew South-East</i> )	- Member

## PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OR AFFIRMATION OF A NEW MEMBER

There was no Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a New Member.

The Leader of Government's Business moved a Motion to allow Item 10 – Personal Explanations on the Order Paper to be taken.

It was then recognised that there was an error in the numbering of Items on the Order Paper presented on the computers of the Members of the House.

Discussions were held on correcting the error made on the Order Paper going forward and it was decided that the House continue with the sequence of other Items on the Order Paper until the corrected copies were circulated to Members.

## **MINUTES**

The Leader of Government's Business moved 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 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. be taken as read.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

The Leader of Government's Business moved the confirmation of the said Minutes.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

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

There was no message from the Governor-General.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR. SPEAKER**

*Mr. Speaker made the following announcement:*

“Honourable Members, I wish to announce that I have completed my visits to the offices of the Parliamentary Representatives. I got a good assessment of the state of the offices, consulted with some of the workers I met there and got a sense of what the

challenges were and we are working to ensure that everyone feels comfortable in the delivery of the services of the Parliamentary Offices.

I must at this point extend my appreciation to Permanent Secretary Javan Williams and the folks at Carriacou for the hospitality extended to me to make the rounds in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Allow me colleagues, to say that Petite Martinique is a gem sitting out there in the Atlantic Ocean. I invite Members of this Honourable House to go to Petite Martinique and see what you have been missing, right, it's really a gem.

I want to say also, Honourable Members of the House, that I did in fact visit Senator the Honourable Norland Cox. I actually travelled to his home in Windward and expressed my condolences personally to him and on behalf of the entire House. We chatted for some time and he did express appreciation for my visit. I just wanted to place this on record. And those are fundamentally my two announcements.”

## **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

There was no presentation of Petitions.

The Leader of Government's Business moved a Motion to introduce the corrected Order Paper and requested that Item 13 – Personal Explanations be taken before Item 7 – Presentation of Petitions.

The Leader of His Majesty's Opposition mentioned that he would only be at the Session for a short period and said he hoped that the reshuffle of Items on the Order Paper would not deny him the option of asking the questions standing in his name.

The Motion was seconded by the Honourable Prime Minister.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Order Paper rearranged.**

## **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

The under-mentioned Member gave a Personal Explanation:

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew North-West

***(Honourable Delma Thomas, Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew North-West crossed the floor from the Opposition Side to the Government's Side)***

**The Speaker made brief remarks.**

The under-mentioned Member gave a Personal Explanation:

- ❖ The Leader of His Majesty's Opposition

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the following Reports and Papers be laid on the Table:

1. Grenada Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training/National Training Agency (GCTVET/NTA) 2021 Annual Report.
2. Housing Authority of Grenada Financial Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018.
3. Housing Authority of Grenada Financial Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.
4. Housing Authority of Grenada Financial Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.
5. Housing Authority of Grenada Financial Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.

**The Speaker ordered that the Reports and Papers be laid on the Table.**

### **UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS**

There was no unopposed private business.

## QUESTIONS

***Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked the Minister for Finance, Honourable Dennis Cornwall, the following question:***

### **Questions No. 1**

#### **1. COVID Economic Support**

- a) How much money has been disbursed to date in the small business grant programme?
- b) What is the geographic – constituency level – distribution and list the beneficiaries?
- c) Could you provide the total number of beneficiaries of the programme and the amount distributed?
- d) What plans do you have for the continuation of the programme?

**The Minister for Finance, Honourable Dennis Cornwall informed the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition that answers to question No. 1 – *COVID Economic Support*, were not complete and would be submitted at the next Sitting of the House.**

***Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked the Prime Minister & Minister for Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation, Transportation, National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Honourable Dickon Mitchell, the following questions:***

### **Questions No.1 - 3**

#### **1. Western Main Road Project:**

- a) What is the new financing timeline and the new estimated cost of the project?
- b) What is the original amount of financing received?
- c) What are the names of the delegation that travelled to the CDB to renegotiate the financing of the project?
- d) Are there any changes in the plans and designs of the project?
- e) If yes, what are these changes?
- f) Who are the service providers?

## **2. Moliniere Land Slip:**

- a) What is the time frame for the completion of the project?
- b) Who are the current consultants?
- c) Who are the current service providers?
- d) Have new surveys been conducted?
- e) Are there any changes to the plans and designs of the project?
- f) If yes, what are these changes?

## **3. St. John's River project:**

- a) What is the completion date of the project?
- b) What changes have been made to the project?
- c) What are the plans for the replacement of the hump back bridge?
- d) Are there any costs overruns?
- e) If yes, what are the levels of the cost overrun?

**The Prime Minister & Minister for Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation, Transportation, National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Honourable Dickon Mitchell, indicated that the answers to the three (3) questions asked were not completed and would be provided to the House in the subsequent Sitting of the House of Representatives.**

***Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked the Leader of Government's Business and Minister for Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, Honourable Philip Telesford, the following question:***

### **Questions No. 1**

**The Labour Commissioner:**

- a) What was the criteria and processes employed in selecting the former Labour Commissioner?
- b) What is the qualification and background that landed her the job?
- c) What is the reason for her dismissal?

**The Leader of Government's Business and Minister for Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, Honourable Philip Telesford, indicated that answers to question No. 1 on the Labour Commissioner should be directed to the Public Service Commission for answers.**

**Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition made a request to the House that answers to questions asked in the House be provided to him before they were submitted to the House.**

**Mr. Speaker remarked that the comments and concerns raised by the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition were noted.**

### **URGENT QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER NO. 20**

There were no urgent questions.

### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

The under-mentioned Members made Statements:

- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture
- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
- Leader of Government's Business & Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs

### **MOTIONS**

There were no Motions.

### **BILLS**

#### **AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AND THE AFRICAN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK 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 House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

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

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- Leader of Government's Business
- Member for the Town of St. George
- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
- Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation

The Leader of Government's Business thanked the Honourable Members from both sides of the House for their contributions made to the Bill and commended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

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

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

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House in Committee.**

Clause 2	-	Interpretation	-	agreed to
Clause 3	-	Agreement to have the force of law	-	agreed to
Clause 4	-	Supplementary agreements	-	agreed to
Clause 5	-	Regulations	-	agreed to
Schedule	-		-	agreed to

Clause 1 - Short title - agreed to

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

**Question put and agreed to.**

**House resumed.**

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

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

**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.**

### **NATIONAL INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

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

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

## REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Adjournment:

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark
- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. George South-East

**Mr. Speaker made comments.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Adjournment:

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for Carriacou and Petite Martinique
- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew South-East

The Leader of Government's Business moved the adjournment of the House *sine die*.

**Question put and agreed to.**

***The Sitting of the House adjourned sine die at 1:00 p.m.***

Submitted to the Speaker for his signature in accordance with Section 6 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives.



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Andrew Augustine  
**CLERK OF PARLIAMENT**

Signed by me pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 6 (2).



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Leo Cato (Honourable)  
**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**