



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 18th July, 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 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
(*St. Patrick East*)

- Minister for Finance

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| 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 |
| Honourable Peter David, MP
(<i>Town of St. George</i>) | - Member |
| Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP
(<i>St. Mark</i>) | - Deputy Speaker |
| Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP
(<i>St. Andrew North-East</i>) | - Member |

ABSENT

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| Honourable Joseph Andall, MP
(<i>St. Patrick West</i>) | - Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development
(<i>Excused</i>) |
| Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP
(<i>St. Andrew South-East</i>) | - Member
(<i>Excused</i>) |

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.

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 20th June, 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 Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Tuesday 20th June, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

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 announcements:

“Honourable Members, I have to give the announcements first. We have received word that Honourable Emmalin Pierre can't make it to the Sitting today.

And Second, in our previous Sitting, I informed this Honourable House that in September we will have the day when our Parliamentarians can visit the secondary schools and

Parliament has chosen the 29th of September, 2023, I think it's a Friday, when all MP's will be expected to visit a secondary school in the State of Grenada which includes, of course, Carriacou. We would give further briefing but we want the MP's to bear this in mind and keep that day on Calendar free, 29th of September. ”

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There was no presentation of Petitions.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Papers and Reports from Select Committees.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

There was no unopposed private business.

QUESTIONS

Questions No. 1

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition will ask the Minister for Finance, Honourable Dennis Cornwall, the following questions:

- (1) Will the Minister for Finance provide the Honourable House with a list of the names of each delegation who travelled on behalf of the Government of Grenada from 23rd June, 2022 to 31st May, 2023?

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, Minister for Finance informed the House that written answers were provided to the House of Representatives at the Sitting held on Tuesday 20th June, 2023. The Minister for Finance then orally stated the answer to question No. 1 asked as follows:

“Most of the travels undertaken by Members of Parliament are not necessarily funded by the Government of Grenada, or payments are made from the Ministry of Finance. In that regard, he is unable to provide such answers. Again. The question that is asked here is relating to June 2023 to May, 2023. Again I am not sure if there is an answer I can give to that one at this moment because I have not been provided

with that information. Notwithstanding if that information becomes available I will be able to provide it at the next Sitting.”

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

Question No. 3

Will the Minister for Finance inform this Honourable House of the total cost on each such trip? In the event that the cost was not borne by the Government in some cases, can the Minister inform the House who paid for such trips?

The Minister for Finance, Honourable Dennis Cornwall, reiterated that written answers to Question No. 2 were submitted to the Clerk’s Office for circulation to Members of the House on the afternoon of June 19, 2023. He then orally re-stated, that the answers should have been forwarded to the Leader of His Majesty’s Opposition for the Sitting of the House of 20th June, 2023.

Mr. Speaker commented that the Government is responsible for providing answers to Questions asked in the House that is in agreement with the rules of the Standing Orders of the House, and therefore recommended that diligent efforts be made to provide answers to questions asked in the House for the benefit of the Public.

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?

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, provided Oral answers to Questions No. 1.

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?

Mr. Speaker recommended to the Prime Minister, that written answers be provided to the Leader of his Majesty's Opposition, indicating that only three (3) Questions are allowed to be answered orally.

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?

Mr. Speaker made comments in relation to questions asked and answers provided in the House. He reminded the Members of the House that not more than three (3) Oral answers to questions are permitted at a Sitting of the House and that written answers may be submitted to the House.

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, stood on a point of clarity indicating that he understood that there were three (3) questions asked of him by the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition with sub questions to each question.

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition commented on his request to the House that answers to questions asked by him be provided before the next Sitting of the House.

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, provided Oral Answers to Question No. 1 - The Labour Commissioner, to the House of Representatives.

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition requested written answers to the Oral responses provided by the Leader of Government's Business and Minister for Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, Honourable Philip Telesford.

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

There were no urgent questions.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

There were no Ministerial Statements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The under-mentioned Member gave a Personal Explanation:

- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition

MOTIONS

There were no Motions.

BILLS

NATIONAL INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL, 2023

The Leader of Government's Business moved the second reading of the National Insurance (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2023.

Question proposed.

The undermentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- The Leader of Government's Business
- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Honourable Representatives for St. Mark
- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition and Honourable Representative for St. George North-West
- Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government
- 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, adding more clarity on 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 - Amendment of section 2 of principal Act - agreed to

Amendment: Clause 2 of the Bill is amended in the new definition of “pensionable age” by inserting the words “of the Third Schedule” after the words “column 2:”.

Clause 3 - Agreement of section 24 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 4 - Amendment of section 25 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 5 - Insertion of new Third Schedule to principal Act - agreed to

Clause 6 - Consequential amendments - agreed to

Clause 1 - Short title and commencement - 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 with one 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.

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

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Adjournment:

- ❖ Honourable Member for St. George North-West
- ❖ Honourable Member for the Town of St. George
- ❖ Honourable Member for St. George North-East
- ❖ Honourable Member for St. Andrew North-East

Mr. Speaker made comments.

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 12:03 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