



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 Monday 4th December, 2023 at 10:00 and on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. and Monday 11th December, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT

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*)

- Leader of Government's Business in the House & 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*)

- Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government

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

ABSENT

Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP (St. John)	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy <i>(Excuse tendered)</i>
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The Sitting of the House began at 9:00 a.m.

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

There was no Minutes.

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 do have correspondence in my possession that shows that the Honourable Kerryne James is out on State business and will not be here in this particular Sitting. I just wish to point out to the Members of the House that a new digital clock is placed above the head of the Sergeant at Arms and this is what will be used to do the timing for this particular debate and presentation by Members.

I wish to announce also that on Thursday the 7th of December, we will be having a State Funeral for the burial of former Member of Parliament Adrian Mitchell and as such, we will have a very brief Sitting on Thursday, thank you.”

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There was no presentation of Petitions.

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. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2024.

2. Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report 2024 – 2026.
3. 2022 Annual Debt Report.
4. Ombudsman Budget and Plan 2024.
5. Integrity Commission Budget 2024.
6. Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Report 2024-2026.
7. Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance held in the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Monday 13th November, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

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

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

There was no unopposed private business.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

URGENT QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER NO. 20 (1) (NOTICE OF QUESTIONS)

There were no urgent questions under the provisions of Standing Order No. 20 (1) (Notice of Questions).

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

There were no Statements by Ministers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

There were no Personal Explanations.

MOTIONS

a) *The Minister for Finance moved the following Motion standing in his name:*

WHEREAS it is necessary to provide for the services of the State of Grenada for the Year 2024 by means of an Appropriation Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024 be approved.

Question proposed.

The Minister for Finance advised the House that he had the consent of the Governor-General to proceed with the Motion, since it had monetary implications.

The Minister for Finance advised the House that in compliance with the Public Finance Management Act and Regulations, the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Public Debt Management Act, the following Reports were laid in the House for approval:

- i. Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report 2024 – 2026.
- ii. 2022 Annual Debt Report.
- iii. Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Report 2024-2026.

The Minister for Finance delivered the Budget Speech.

The Minister for Finance thanked all the Members of Parliament and staff for their support, and all for their support and contributions to the preparation and delivery of the Budget and Presentation.

The Speaker thanked the Minister for Finance for the delivery of the Budget Speech and made comments.

The Leader of Government's Business moved the adjournment of the House until Thursday 7th December, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the forenoon.

Question proposed.

The Prime Minister moved a Motion that the House stand and pay tribute with a moment of silence in observance of the late Member of Parliament, Honourable Adrian Mitchell.

The Speaker invited all to stand and reminded Members that the Sitting on Thursday would be a brief Sitting that would be adjourned by 12:00 noon to allow for the attendance of the funeral service of the late Honourable Adrian Mitchell.

House adjourned at 12:01 p.m. until Thursday 7th December, 2022 at 9:00 in the forenoon.

**House resumed on
Thursday 7th December, 2023
at 9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT

Mr. Speaker
The Honourable Leo Cato
in the Chair

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

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

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

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

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

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
(*St. Patrick East*)

Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP
(*St. John*)

Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead
(*St. George North-East*)

- Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation
- Leader of Government's Business & Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development
- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture & Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
- Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government
- Minister for Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation
- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

Honourable Delma Thomas, MP (St. Andrew North-West)	- Member
Honourable Andy Williams, MP (South St. George)	- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP (St. George North-West)	- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
Honourable Peter David, MP (Town of St. George)	- Member
Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP (St. Mark)	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP (St. Andrew North-East)	- Member
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP (St. Andrew South-East)	- Member

ABSENT

PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

The Speaker reminded the Members of the House that the days Sitting would be a short Sitting to allow Members of the House to pay their respect to the late Honourable Adrian Mitchell.

Mr. Speaker reminded Members of the installation of a digital clock in the chamber for use by Members in timing themselves. He further indicated that the Clerk would ring the bell ten (10) minutes before the end of each Members presentation.

Debate on the 2024 Budget ensued.

The under-mentioned Members made contributions:

- ❖ Leader of His Majesty's Opposition

The Speaker commented on the use of devices in the Chamber during the budget debate and advised Members and the public in the Chamber to turn devices off in the Chamber.

Comments were made on the proposed attendance of Members of the House of Representatives to the funeral Service of the late Honourable Adrian Mitchell.

The Leader of Government's Business moved the adjournment of the House until Friday 8th December, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the forenoon.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned at 11:14 a.m. until Friday 8th December, 2023 at 9:00 in the forenoon.

**House resumed
on Friday 8th December, 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*)

- Leader of Government's Business & Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs

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(*St. Patrick West*)

- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development

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

- Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
(*St. Patrick East*)

- Minister for Finance

Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP
(*St. John*)

- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
(Excuse tendered)

Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP
(*St. George North-East*)

- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

Honourable Delma Thomas, MP (St. Andrew North-West)	- Member
Honourable Andy Williams, MP (South St. George)	- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP (St. George North-West)	- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
Honourable Peter David, MP (Town of St. George)	- Member
Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP (St. Mark)	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP (St. Andrew South-East)	- Member
Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP (St. Andrew North-East)	- Member

ABSENT

PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

The debate on the 2024 Budget ensued.

The under-mentioned Members made contributions:

- ❖ Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation.
- ❖ Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation.
- ❖ Minister for Carriacou & Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government.

The House was adjournment for lunch from **12: 45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned for lunch at 12:45 p.m.

House resumed at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker made comments.

Debate continued.

The under-mentioned Members made contributions:

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew North-East.
- ❖ 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

The Leader of Government's Business moved the adjournment of the House until Monday 11th December, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the forenoon.

Honourable Member for the Town of St. George stood on a Point of Order to query the proposed time of 8:00 a.m. as the time for resuming the House on Monday 11th December, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, made comments in response.

Question put and agreed to.

The House was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. on Friday 8th December, 2023 in the afternoon to resume on Monday 11th December, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the forenoon.

**House resumed
on Monday 11th December, 2023
at 8:00 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*)

- Leader of Government's Business in the House & 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*)

- Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
(*St. Patrick East*)

- Minister for Finance

Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP
(*St. John*)

- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy

Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP
(*St. George North-East*)

- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

Honourable Andy Williams, MP (South St. George)	- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP (St. Andrew North-West)	- Member
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP (St. George North-West)	- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
Honourable Peter David, MP (Town of St. George)	- Member
Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP (St. Mark)	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP (St. Andrew North-East)	- Member
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP (St. Andrew South-East)	- Member

ABSENT

The Sitting of the House resumed at 8:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker made the following announcements:

Good morning Honourable Members. Today should mark the last day of the Budget Debate. I have not seen many folks in the other part of the Parliament House, but I wish to make an announcement that all phones should be off because I am not prepared to the have the disturbances that we have had previously.

I wish to inform this Honourable House also that I was invited by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be the keynote speaker at a conference in Uganda, so on the 29th of December, 2023 I would be traveling so to do. And with that said I have no other announcements. I note that in the debates so far we have had seven (7) speakers and we need to listen to another eight (8) today. Thank you.

Discussions were held in the House on the successive Member of the House to begin the morning's debate on the Budget Presentation. It was noted that the Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen who was designated to present as scheduled, was excused as being late. There was deliberation on both sides of the House on the readiness of Members to begin their debate.

The House was adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

The House resumed at 8:33 a.m.

Debate on the 2024 Budget reconvened.

Mr. Speaker invited any Member of the House to make their budget debate presentation.

The under-mentioned Members made contributions:

- ❖ Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark

Minister for Finance stood on a Point of Order

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark
- ❖ Leader of Government's Business & Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs
- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for Town of St. George

House adjourned for lunch at 1:08 p.m.

House resumed at 2:00 p.m.

- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew North-West.
- ❖ Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development.
- ❖ Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew South-East

The Minister for Finance gave his rebuttal on the Budget.

The Minister for Finance commended the Speaker for his support and guidance and thanked the Honourable Members, supporting staff and all who contributed to the Budget and Budget Presentation for 2024. The Honourable Minister for Finance commended the Motion to the House for approval.

The Speaker made comments.

Question put and agreed to.

The Motion was approved.

(b) The Minister for Finance moved the following Motion standing in his name:

**RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 56 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE
MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 17 OF 2015**

WHEREAS section 56 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act No. 17 of 2015 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) provides *inter alia* that no money shall be raised on the credit of the Government of Grenada except under the authority of this Act or under an Act of Parliament or a Resolution of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS section 56 (2) of the Act provides *inter alia* that the Minister of Finance may borrow when authorised by Resolution of the House of Representatives money on behalf of the Government of Grenada in any form and from any legitimate source on terms and conditions to be agreed with the creditor;

WHEREAS it is further provided that the amount shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum specified in the Resolution;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Minister of Finance be authorised by a Resolution of the House of Representatives to borrow on behalf of the Government of Grenada, money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of Three Hundred and seventy-five Million Eastern Caribbean Dollars (EC\$375,000,000.00) to meet current expenditure requirements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives hereby authorises the Minister of Finance to borrow on behalf of the Government of Grenada money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of Three Hundred and seventy-five Million Eastern Caribbean Dollars (EC\$375,000,000.00) for the period January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Question proposed.

The undermentioned spoke on the Motion:

➤ Minister for Finance

Question put and agreed to.

Motion was approved.

(c) *The Minister for Finance moved the following Motion standing in his name:*

WHEREAS THE House Committee met on Wednesday 22nd November, 2023;

AND WHEREAS recommendations were made to the House of Representatives through the Chairman's Report which was laid on 28th November, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

The Minister for Finance moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Motion approved.

BILLS

APPROPRIATION (2024) BILL, 2023

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture 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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved the second reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- ❖ Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture
- ❖ The Leader of Government's Business

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the House resolve 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.

Clause 2	-	Appropriation	-	agreed to
Clause 1	-	Short title	-	agreed to

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the House resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumes.

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

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

2024 BUDGET LOAN AUTHORISATION BILL, 2023

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture 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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved the second reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Member spoke on the Bill:

- Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and informed the House that he had the consent of the Governor-General to proceed with the Bill, having monetary implications.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the House resolve 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.

Clause 2	-	Authority to raise loan	-	agreed to
	-	Schedule	-	agreed to
Clause 1	-	Short title	-	agreed to

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the House resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumed.

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

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Minister of State wrf Youth & Sports within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture 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 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 6:40 p.m.

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



.....
Andrew Augustine
CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

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



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