



SENATE

Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Thursday, 6th June, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Madam President
Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams
in the Chair

- Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas - Minister of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture
(Leader of Government's Business)
- Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew - Minister of Education
- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton - Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture
- Senator the Honourable Jonathan La Crette - Minister of Youth, and Sports
- Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas - Minister of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox - Opposition Member of the Senate (Deputy President)
- Senator the Honourable Katisha Douglas - Opposition Member of the Senate
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André - Member of the Senate (Labour Rep.)

Lewis

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair - Member of the Senate (Farmers Rep.)

Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman Member of the Senate (Business Rep.)

Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn - Opposition Member of the Senate

The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:04 a.m.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OR AFFIRMATION OF A NEW SENATOR

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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Building, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Friday, 26th April, 2024 be taken as read.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes taken as read.

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Friday, 26th April, 2024 be confirmed.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes confirmed.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

There was no Message from the Governor-General.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MADAM PRESIDENT

Madam President made the following announcements:

“Ladies and gentlemen, again a pleasant and warm, and a little rainy we hope, Grenadian good morning. Since we last met a month ago, less than a month ago, I’ve been able to, I’ve been... I’ve attended the Fourth (4th) International Conference on Small Island Developing States. I would like to report that there was a, a... it was an important meeting because it was the fourth (4th) occasion on which the world gathered to consider the vulnerability of small island developing states, and to further develop their resilience, as partners.

The Grenada delegation was led by our Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell and our two (2) other Ministers, our very own Senator Gloria Thomas and from the “Other Place”, Senator Kerryne James. We were also accompanied by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Resilience, Climate Resilience, His Excellency the Ambassador Phillip Ché out of the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations, several other technical experts and observers.

And I think the interesting thing for... one (1) of the interesting things was to see the young persons on the delegation. We had a number of young people, one (1) was specifically designated for the Youth Summit, another one was designated for the Civil Society Summit and we also met a number of Grenadians there. I was quite pleased to see Halim Brizan who came to represent CARICOM, Eudine Barriteau, Professor Emerita Sorry to be calling names Hazel Da Breo, Child Psychologist and many other Grenadians. We met Grenadians in Antigua as well.

So I would say that for Grenada as a Small Island Developing State, we had the opportunity to participate in the three (3) levels of the conference. The first one (1) was the Civil Society Summit which went on for two (2) days. It was led by the Caribbean Civil Society Organization, CANARI as well as some other groups, the environmental organizations. And there must have been representation from the Maroons people of the Caribbean as indigenous people, women’s activist, environmental activists and several others. And they did issue a statement, the Caribbean we want.

I would encourage you to take a look at it, it lays out a vision for the management of the environment, the ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation and how it relates in particular to community. The second two (2) days was a summit, the Gender Equality Forum, which was led by the United Nations Women, but supported by ParlAmericas and other organizations. And there were about 250 women from, really around the world, if I remember correctly. Senator Thomas was one of the prominent Ministers from the Caribbean participating. I also had the opportunity to meet the president of Dominica. I don’t know how new she is.

I hadn’t known her before, but it was interesting and important and repeated quite a bit, that here we are in the Caribbean, with the first woman President of Dominica. And she’s

also an indigenous woman, the Kalinago. So the Caribbean was making a show of the depth of... the depths to which it goes in its society, to promote or to advance women's leadership. That meeting, that two (2) day meeting also issued a statement which is a, also online. It lays out the call for engendering the outcomes of the conference, and pursuing in a more deliberate way, all the obligations we have, for example, in the SDG Number five (5) in the SDG's. And then came the full regular meeting for four (4) days of the Small Island Developing States and you would have already seen in the media, the outcome document there.

Resilient prosperity, pursuit of resilient prosperity for Small Island Developing States, all our sisters and brother and they attending in large numbers from, you know the Pacific, all the Pacific Islands, the African Island, the islands in the Indian Ocean, the islands in the South China seas. So it was a... and of course the Caribbean Islands. So we were able to put the case of the threats of Caribbean, of Small Island States to the International Community, and I think the executive branch of government here in Grenada, will report on its bilaterals and what was accomplished and how it perceived it. I simply want to say, for us as Parliamentarians, it's important to follow these matters, because eventually, legislation will be needed to scale up the kinds of development, sustainable development agenda that is called for in these outcome documents.

So greater familiarity with the process and the content of these outcomes could make a difference. And in my case I was, you know, able to... I was invited to, to moderate meeting, to serve on panels and to be a part of this... It was my third of four (4) meetings, having attended the very first one, as a civil society activist in 1994 in Barbados and then in Samoa and here in Antigua. So it's, it's a category in the international community to which Grenada has also provided some leadership, but to which it belongs. And I just take to your attention.

May I also thank Senator Salim Rahaman for so ably representing Grenada on the CPA Caribbean Branch, the Executive Committee, as the Executive Branch of the Caribbean CPA is revisiting its Constitution. And I gathered Senator Rahaman from participants that you brought a refreshing perspective and I'm thankful to you for doing that. Grenada is on the Executive of the Caribbean CPA and it is important for us to attend all the meetings that are held.

We also have had meetings with the ParlAmericas, Grenada is a Vice President of ParlAmericas twice now, last year and then this year. Last year was myself of the year before, but this year our Speaker also became a Vice President, so we are called on, both at the regional CPA and at the ParlAmericas we are called on to provide leadership, to be present, and it's a wide range of topics that are discussed, almost in parallel with the executive, issues of artificial intelligence, issues of climate change and the legislation concerning that, particularly around energy transition. It's expected that Parliamentarians will be hospitable to those initiatives. And so, I encourage you to pay attention.

Lastly, I want to report that Senator Claudette Joseph is out of state on government business and has sent her apologies. Likewise Senator Neilon Franklyn, also is out of state and has asked to be excused. Here ends my updates. Thank you.”

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister of Education
Senator Roderick St. Clair made comments requesting clarifications
Minister for Education responded
Senator Salim Rahaman made comments requesting clarifications
Senator Andre Lewis made comments requesting clarifications
Senator Norland Cox made comments requesting clarifications
- Senator Gloria Thomas, Minister of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)
Senator Roderick St. Clair commented requesting clarifications
Senator Gloria Thomas responded.
- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture
Senator Andre Lewis made comments and requested clarifications
- Senator Jonathan LaCrette, Minister of Youth, and Sports
Senator Norland Cox made comments and requested clarifications
Senator Jonathan LaCrette responded.
Senator Roderick St. Clair made comments requesting clarifications
Senator Jonathan LaCrette responded.

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

There were no Papers and Reports to be laid:

PETITIONS

There were no Petitions.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

There were no Government Notices.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

There were no unofficial notices.

QUESTIONS

There were no questions

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

There were no Personal Explanations.

MOTIONS

There were no Motions.

BILLS

EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Senator the Honourable David Andrew, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved the second reading of the Bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
- Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

Senator the Honourable David Andrew stood on a point of order of misrepresentation

Madam President interjected to allow the Point of Order

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair continued

Minister for Education thanked everyone for their contribution and recommended the bill for a second reading

Madam President thanked the Senator and proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Clause 2. Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act - agreed to

Clause 1. Short title and commencement

- agreed to

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Senator the Honourable David Andrew, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved the second reading of the Bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

➤ Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette

Senator the Honourable David Andrew thanked everyone for their contribution and recommended the Bill for a second reading

Madam President thanked the Senator and Senator the Honourable David Andrew proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Clause 2. Amendment of section 47 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 3. Amendment of section 52 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 4. Amendment of section 94 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 5. Amendment of section 176 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 1. Short title - agreed to

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable David Andrew moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
The Bill was read a third time and passed.

Senate adjourned for lunch at 12:38 pm.
Senate resumed at 1:34 pm.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved the second reading of the Bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable David Andrew
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas thanked everyone for their contribution and recommended the Bill for a second reading

Madam President thanked the Senator and proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Clause 2. Amendment of section 10 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 1. Short title - agreed to

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved that the Senate resumes and the Chairman of the Committee reports progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable Gloria Thomas moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
The Bill was read a third time and passed.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved the second reading of the bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton
- Senator the Honourable Andre Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette interjected to provide clarity
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette thanked everyone for their contribution and recommended the Bill for a second reading.

Madam President thanked the Senator and proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Clause 2. Amendment of section 22 of principal Act - agreed to

Clause 1. Short title - agreed to

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable Jonathan LaCrette moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT BILL), 2024

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

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved the second reading of the bill.

There was no debate.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas thanked everyone and moved the second reading of the Bill.

Madam President thanked the Senator and proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

Clause 2. Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act - agreed to

Clause 3. Insertion of new section 44 to principal Act - agreed to

Clause 1. Short title and commencement

- agreed to

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS BILL, 2024.

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

The Bill was read a first time.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved the second reading of the bill.

The following Members spoke on the Bill:

- Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton
-
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- Senator the Honourable Andre Lewis
- Senator the Honourable David Andrew

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas thanked everyone and moved the second reading of the bill.

Madam President thanked the Senator and proposed the question for second reading

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
The Bill was read a second time.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Committee.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Clause 2. Interpretation | - agreed to |
| Clause 3. Recording of court proceedings | - agreed to |
| Clause 4. Words of interpreter | - agreed to |
| Clause 5. Certification of transcript | - agreed to |
| Clause 6. Witness need not sign transcript | - agreed to |
| Clause 7. Official transcript | - agreed to |
| Clause 8. Transcript of records as proof of court proceedings | - agreed to |
| Clause 9. Request for transcript | - agreed to |
| Clause 10. Exemption from fees | - agreed to |
| Clause 11. Rules | -agreed to |
| Clause 12. Practice Directions | - agreed to |
| SCHEDULE I - CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT OR RECORD CERTIFICATE | - agreed to |
| SCHEDULE II - REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT | - agreed to |

Clause 1. Short title

- agreed to

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Senate resume and the Chairman of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved the third reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

There was no public business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The following Members spoke on the adjournment:

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

Madam President provided some closing remarks. She thanked all the Members for their presentations. She also thanked all support staff

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned at 5:30 p.m. sine die.