SENATE

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MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD AT THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT. WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE, 2024 AT 09:00 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 Jonathan La Crette	Minister of Youth, and Sports
Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph	Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
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 Mondy André Lewis	Member of the Senate (Labour Rep.)
Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman	Member of the Senate (Business Rep.)
Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair	Member of the Senate (Farmers Rep.)

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton	Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture
Senator the Honourable Neilon Franklyn	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Katisha Douglas	Opposition Member of the Senate

The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:00 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 Thursday 4th April, 2024 be taken as read.

The President started to put the question when Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman rose.

Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman indicated that he was listed as absent in the previous Sitting, however, the minutes would have showed that he contributed quite a lot under the item of reports and therefore asked that the Minutes be corrected.

Madam President thanked the Senator and stated that the minutes would be corrected.

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 Thursday 4th April, 2024 be confirmed.

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 Thursday 4th April, 2024 be confirmed as amended.

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Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Minutes confirmed as amended.

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 Thursday 6th June, 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 Thursday 6th June, 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.

The Assistant Clerk called Item 6, then Item 7, however, Madam President pointed out that she had announcements to make.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MADAM PRESIDENT

Madam President made the following announcements: "Thank you, Deputy Clerk we are on Items 6, announcements from the President. Again, glad to see everyone here, those who are on their way let's expect them soon. First announcement, Honourable Members is that we have received an excuse for his absence from Senator Franklyn who many of you would be aware is mourning the death of his father and he's unable to join us today. His father will be buried on the 5th of July and details will follow. On your behalf and mine I extend condolences to Senator Neilon Franklyn.

And, I wish also to extend condolences to Senator the Honourable Jonathan La Crette, whose grandmother has passed away on the 7th of June. She was also the mother of Grenada's Health Ambassador, Dr. Trevor Layne known to many of us. We extend condolences to the Honourable Senator, Ambassador Dr. Layne and the rest of the family. The funeral is this afternoon.

I wish to announce that in October 2023 the Grenada Women's Parliamentary Caucus hosted a seminar on Gender-Based Violence and Family Violence. This group of past and present Parliamentarians are now displaying 12 billboards around the country to raise awareness. So, please look out for them in your Parish, and draw attention to our message and the messages that are on them. Please help us eliminate crime, gender-based violence, family based violence in our homes, and of course, in our communities.

Distinguished Senators along with ParlAmericas, this Parliament is hosting the training of 35 young women to become political leaders, 35 across the Country, was a very open and inclusive process, you were all contacted. A big thanks therefore, to all those who helped us with the nomination and selection processes.

This five weeks seminar is still ongoing, and will culminate with a mock Sitting of Parliament on the 15th of July. I want to thank all those of you who have been engaged and in welcoming them and in presenting orientation and briefings and even substantive input with them. And, those of you who have not been contacted, rest assured that you will be engaged. I want to ask you to encourage your daughters, your nieces, your cousins, all your female relatives, your neighbors and others to support these young women, who are aspiring leaders for our Country. And there'll be a special transformational training session, transformational leadership training session on the 12th of July, which will proceed the mock Parliament on the 15th. So, please get involved, it's a national happening, it's around leadership. Many of them are looking to model their careers in politics or in leadership after you, please get involved.

Also on July 9th, there will be a training also led by ParlAmericas on the Escazú Agreement which Grenada has ratified. Escazú Agreement is an environmental treaty which encourages us to make sure that information, participation and justice

is available to environmental activists. Such a workshop will be held on the 9th of July for Parliamentarian to sensitize us.

And, my last announcement concerns this Sunday, the 30th of June, is set aside every year by the United Nations as International Day of Parliamentarianism, World Parliament Day, every year, since it was started in 2018. And, it is led by the Parliament of Parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union which when you look online you will see that it is now headed up by a very capable Speaker of the House from Tanzania, brilliant young woman whom we had the privilege to work with earlier this year, as she attended the Commonwealth meeting. She'd made an appeal for us all to be involved in developing and spreading Parliaments involvement in society. And, the Theme this year is "Institutional Democracy for Sustainable Development." This is an Institution and we are a democratic society and a democratic institutions, so let us take our Parliament seriously, and let us look at other ways in which institutional democracy can be effected and effective for achieving sustainable development. End of announcements, thank you."

Senator the Honourable Norland Cox rose and advised the House that he had been copied on an email sent to the Clerk by Senator Katisha Douglas who indicated that she was unwell and would not be able to attend the Sitting.

Madam President thanked the Senator and acknowledged that the message had not reached her desk and extended best wishes to the Senator Douglas for good health.

Madam President also took the opportunity to extend wishes for good health, wellness and full recovery to the wife of Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair who had been hospitalized.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas also endorsed empathy and sympathy to the members so affected.

Senator Thomas also indicated that Senator the Honourable Quinc Briton would be absent from the Sitting since he was out of State on Government's Business.

Madam President thanked the Leader of Government's Business and accepted the excuse on behalf of Senator Quinc Britton.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

There were no Ministerial Statements.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Papers and Reports 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

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas asked that Order Paper be amended to consider the last bill first, which is listed as the Passport (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to be followed by the Firearm (Amendment) No. 2 Bill, 2024 and then the Criminal Procedures Code (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Madam President asked the House to invert the order of the bills to take the Passport Bill first.

Question put and agreed to.

Order Paper amended.

PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

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

The Bill was read a first time.

The Leader of Government's Business, 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.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas proposed the second reading of the bill.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Minister of Education
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- The Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas thanked colleagues who expressed their comments and support to the bill and rebutted.

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

The Leader of Government's Business, 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 6 of principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 1	-	Short title and commencement	-	agreed to

The Leader of Government's Business, 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.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

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

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the third reading of the Bill be taken

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

FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2024

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

The Bill was read a first time.

The Leader of Government's Business, 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.

The Leader of Government's Business 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 Norland Cox
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)
- Minister of Youth, and Sports
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair
- The Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas commended his colleagues for participating in that very important debate and welcomed all the good ideas and comments and rebutted on aspects raised.

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

The Leader of Government's Business, 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	-	Application	-	agreed to
Clause 3	-	Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 4	-	Amendment of section 4 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 5	-	Amendment of section 5 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 6	-	Amendment of section 9 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 7	-	Amendment of section 10 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 8	-	Amendment of section 11 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 9	-	Amendment of section 12 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 10	-	Amendment of section 13 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 11	-	Amendment of section 14 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 12	-	Amendment of section 15 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 13	-	Amendment of section 16 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 14	-	Amendment of section 17 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 15	-	Amendment of section 19 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 16	-	Amendment of section 20 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 17	-	Amendment of section 21 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 18	-	Amendment of section 22 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 19	-	Amendment of section 23 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 20	-	Repeal and substitution of section 24 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 21	-	Amendment of section 25 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 22	-	Repeal and substitution of section 26 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 23	-	Amendment of section 35 of the principal Act	-	agreed to

Clause 24	-	Amendment of section 36 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 25	-	Amendment of section 41 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 26	-	Amendment of section 42 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 27	-	Amendment of section 45 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 28	-	Amendment of section 53 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 1	-	Short title and commencement	-	agreed to

The Leader of Government's Business, 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, with some discussion and passed without amendment.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

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

The Leader of Government's Business, 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.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas asked that the House be adjourned for lunch.

Senate adjourned for lunch at 1:40 p.m.
Senate resumed at 2:35 p.m.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

The Minister of Education introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

The Bill was read a first time.

The Minister of Education 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.

The Minister for Education moved the second reading of the bill.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- The Minister of Education
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox
- The Leader of Government's Business
- Minister of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

The Minister of Education thanked his colleagues for their contribution to the bill and the debate, gave his rebuttal.

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

The Leader of Government's Business, 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	-	Application	-	agreed to
Clause 3	-	Amendment to section 47 of the principal Code	-	agreed to
Clause 4	-	Repeal of section 50 of the principal Code	-	agreed to
Clause 1	-	Short title and commencement	-	agreed to

The Minister of Education 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.

The Minister of Education moved that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

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

The Minister of Education 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 for the adjournment of the Sitting.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senators spoke on the adjournment:

- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis

- Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman
- Senator the Honourable David Andrew
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

Madam President advised that Senator Cox indicated that he had to leave early because he had to take the boat to return to Carriacou.

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas also asked to be excused who had an OECS delegation to meet with.

Madam President made closing remarks.

Question put and agreed to.
Senate adjourned sine die at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted to the President for her signature in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(2) of the Revised Standing Orders of the Senate.

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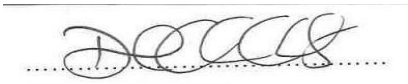
Andrew Augustine

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

Signed by me pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Standing Order No. 7(2).



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Dessima Williams

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE