



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 13TH May, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker
The Honourable Leo Cato, MP
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, Transportation and Communications Technology

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

- Minister for Health & Leader of Government's Business

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, Agriculture & Lands, Marine

Resources and Cooperatives

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP (St. Patrick East)	- Minister for Finance
Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP (St. George North-East)	- Member
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP (St. Andrew North-West)	- Minister for Youth and Sports, Mental Health & Religious Affairs
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP (St. Andrew South-East)	- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP (St. Mark)	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP (St. Andrew North-East)	- Member
Honourable Peter David, MP (Town of St. George)	- Member

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP (St. John)	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP (Carriacou & Petite Martinique)	- Minister for Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government
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)	- 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.

MINUTES

The Leader of Government's Business moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Friday 7th March, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th March, 2025 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 a Sitting of the House of Representatives held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's on Friday 7th March, 2025 and on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th March, 2025 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 just two bits of announcements. I wish to inform this Honourable House that the Honourable Member for the constituency of St. John will not be here with us, she will be out of State presently on Government Business.

On the 24th of this month May, 2025 yours truly will be out of State until the 31st of this month I will be attending a Speakers conference in Uruguay. Those are my announcements. Thank you.”

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There was no presentation of Petitions.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

1. Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee (FROC) 2024 Annual Report (April 23, 2025)
2. Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee (FROC) 2024 Annual Report at a Glance (April 23, 2025)
3. Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Guidelines, 2024 (to be laid for negative Resolution)

The under-mentioned spoke on the Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select Committees:

- Leader of His Majesty’s Opposition

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

There was no unopposed private business.

QUESTIONS

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked the Minister for Public Administration, Honourable Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, the following questions:

Questions Nos. 1 - 5

1. Would a nurse who was on a Public Service Commission contract for the last 3 and a half years in a truly vacant position be considered a "new Public Sector employee" for the purposes of the Public Sector Employees Pension Act? Which pension arrangement would this worker qualify under?
2. Should the fund run into financial problems, does the law provide for a government guaranteed on the pension to the member?
3. The 1958 Pension law allows for 66 2/3% of the workers last salary. Does this pension scheme guarantee a percentage amount of the workers' last salary? If so, what is the percentage and which section of the law this information can be found?
4. Section 3 (1b) subsection ii of the Pension law excludes as specific group of workers based on set criteria. Please advise which law covers people falling in this category?
5. The government has announced the commencement of the deductions from the members/workers. In the absence of the institution established in the law for administering the fund, what is the transitional arrangement for the collection, management and administration of the same?

Questions and Answers Nos 1 - 5

The written answers to the questions asked by Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition at the Siting of the House of Representatives on Tuesday 13th May, 2025 were provided to the House of Representatives by the Minister for Public Administration, Honourable Dickon Mitchell. The answers were presented as follows:

1. Would a nurse who was on a Public Service Commission contract for the last 3 and a half years in a truly vacant position be considered a "new public Sector employee" for the purposes of the Public Sector Employees Pension Act? Which pension arrangement would this worker qualify under?

No - A nurse or any other public service employee who has been engaged

on a Public Service Commission contract for the last 3 ½ years in a truly vacant position would not be considered a “new public Sector employee” for the purposes of the new Public Sector Employees Pension. These workers will be covered under the old pension arrangement.

2. Should the fund run into financial problems, does the law provide for a government guaranteed on the pension to the member?

The New Pension Plan adopts the Defined Contribution design; therefore, there is no risk of the fund experiencing financial problems, as it's a Defined Contribution plan. All assets are calculated to individual members, and so the goal is to make sure that the fund achieves market rates of return. There is no contingent liability for the Government of Grenada once the full Past Service Credit has been paid as approved.

3. The 1958 Pension law allows for 66 2/3% of the workers last salary. Does this pension scheme guarantee a percentage amount of the workers' last salary? If so, what is the percentage and which section of the law this information can be found?

The new pension plan does not guarantee any minimum or maximum replacement rate. As a defined contribution plan, each member's contributions (employer/employee/volunteer) accumulate with interest. Upon retirement, the amount accumulated in the member's account will be available for drawdown or purchase of an annuity.

4. Section 3 (1b) subsection ii of the Pension law excludes as specific group of workers based on set criteria. Please advise which law covers people falling in this category?

Employees who have neither attained the age of fifty years nor have been employed with the Government for a period exceeding fifteen years and are not eligible to receive a pension, gratuity or other allowance in accordance with a relevant enactment are covered under the new public sector pension act. Employees of the Government who are currently employed in the public service for a period exceeding fifteen years and are fifty years of age or older are entitled to the Ex Gracia monthly payment based on Cabinet Conclusion#1221 of June 22, 1988. Temporary employees – These employees will be covered under the new pension act upon confirmation. People who are seconded from statutory bodies or government agencies with established pension arrangements will be covered under these arrangements.

5. The government has announced the commencement of the deductions from the members/workers. In the absence of the institution established in the law for administering the fund, what is the transitional arrangement for the collection, management and administration of the same?

Cabinet Conclusion #111 provides for the Department of Public Administration to serve as the interim fund administrator. The contributions deducted from January 1, 2025, are being deposited into a special bank account established for this purpose.

The Answers to the above Questions 1 – 5 were circulated to Members of the House of Representatives at the Sitting of Tuesday 13th May, 2025.

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

There were no urgent questions.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The under-mentioned Ministers made statements:

- Minister for Youth and Sports, Mental Health, Wellness & Religious Affairs
- Leader of Government's Business and Minister for Health
- Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

There were no Personal Explanations.

MOTIONS

a) *The Leader of Government's Business moved the following Motion standing in his name:*

RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 33 (3) OF THE EXCISE TAX ACT, CHAPTER 94.

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 33 (3) of the Excise Tax Act, Chapter 94 of the 2010 Continuous Revised Edition of the Laws of Grenada (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the Minister may by Order published in the *Gazette* and approved by affirmative resolution of the Parliament amend the First Schedule and the Second Schedule of the Act;

WHEREAS the Minister proposes to amend the Second Schedule of the Act, in accordance with section 33 (3) thereof, to exempt from excise tax any machinery and equipment that are imported by a registered business for the purpose of replacing that business' machinery and equipment that were damaged, destroyed or otherwise negatively affected as a result of the impact of Hurricane Beryl, provided that in respect of each business, the exemption must first be approved in writing by the Minister, on the following conditions—

- (a) the machinery and equipment are imported for use by the business and not for sale or exchange;
- (b) the machinery and equipment are imported for the purpose of replacing machinery and equipment that was owned by the business but was subsequently damaged, destroyed or otherwise negatively affected as a result of the impact of Hurricane Beryl; and
- (c) any other conditions pertaining to the ownership, use and disposal of the machinery and equipment as the Minister sees fit,

and admitted as such by the Comptroller of Customs;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Excise Tax (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order, 2025 which seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Act be approved by Parliament;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 33 (3) of the Act, the Excise Tax (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order, 2025 as set out in the Schedule to this Resolution is hereby approved by Parliament.

SCHEDULE

The undermentioned spoke on the Motion:

- The Parliamentary Representative for St. Mark stood.
- Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

b) The Leader of Government's Business moved the following Motion standing in his name:

RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 107 (2) OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CHAPTER 286A

WHEREAS it is provided by section 107 (1) of the Representation of the People Act Cap. 286A (hereinafter referred to as "**the Act**") that the Governor-General may make Regulations generally for giving effect to the provisions of the Act;

WHEREAS section 107 (1) (c) provides that the Governor-General may make Regulations prescribing the symbols to be used on every ballot paper, and the mode of allocation of such symbols to candidates;

WHEREAS section 107 (2) provides that Regulations made under the Act are subject to affirmative resolution;

WHEREAS regulations have been made to insert a new symbol to be used on ballot papers under the Representation of the People (Election Symbols) Regulations Cap. 286A;

AND WHEREAS it is now expedient that the Representation of the People (Election Symbols) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 attached hereto as a Schedule be approved by the House of Representatives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 107 (2) of the Act, the Representation of the People (Election Symbols) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 be now approved.

SCHEDULE

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

BILLS

TAX ADMINISTRATION (POST-HURRICANE BERYL FISCAL SUPPORT) SPECIAL MEASURES BILL, 2025

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its 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 proposed.

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:

- The Leader of Government's Business

- Leader of His Majesty's Opposition and Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew South-East;
- Minister for Finance;
- Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation
- Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew North-East

The Leader of Government's Business thanked Members for their contributions and support 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 Part by Part.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

Part II	- Tax Exemptions and Extension of deadlines	-	agreed to
Part III	- Miscellaneous Provisions	-	agreed to
Part I	- Preliminary	-	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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumes.

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 proposed.

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.

The Leader of Government's Business called for a Division on the Tax Administration (Post-Hurricane Beryl Fiscal Support) Special Measures Bill, 2025

The Speaker advised the Leader of Government's Business that a Division should be called before the vote was taken on the Bill. The Speaker pointed out that he missed the request from the Leader of Government's Business for a Division to be taken earlier.

It was agreed to take the vote by Division.

DIVISION HELD ON – TAX ADMINISTRATION (POST-HURRICANE BERYL FISCAL SUPPORT) SPECIAL MEASURES BILL, 2025

NAMES	AYE	NO	ABSTENTION	ABSENT
Honourable Dickon Mitchell, MP	Aye			
Honourable Philip Telesford, MP	Aye			
Honourable Joseph Andall, MP	Aye			
Honourable Lennox J. Andrew, MP	Aye			
Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP				Absent
Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP	Aye			
Honourable Kerryne James, MP				Absent
Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP	Aye			
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP	Aye			
Honourable Andy Williams, MP				Absent
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell, MP				Absent
Honourable Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP	Aye			

Honourable Peter David, MP				Absent
Honourable Kate Lewis, MP	Aye			
Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP	Aye			
TOTAL	10			5

EASTERN CARIBBEAN ASSET MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2025

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its 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 proposed.

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:

- The Leader of Government's Business

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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

Clause 2 Amendment of section 5 of the principal Act - 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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumes.

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 proposed.

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.

PAYMENT SYSTEM AND SERVICES BILL, 2025

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its 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 proposed.

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:

- The Leader of Government’s Business

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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

Part II	-	ADMINISTRATION	-	agreed to
Part III	-	LICENSING	-	agreed to
Part IV	-	OVERSIGHT	-	agreed to
Part V	-	DESSIGNATION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS	-	agreed to
Part VI	-	RULES TO REGULATE SYSTEMS	-	agreed to
Part VII	-	CONSUMER PROTECTION	-	agreed to
Part VIII	-	SETTLEMENT, NETTING AND FINALITY OF PAYMENT	-	agreed to
Part IX	-	WINDING-UP AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN OPERATOR, A PARTICIPANT OR A		

		PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER	-	agreed to
Part X	-	ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND PENALTIES	-	agreed to
Part XI	-	MISCELLANEOUS	-	agreed to
Part I	-	PRELIMINARY	-	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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumes.

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 proposed.

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.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AGREEMENT BILL, 2025

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its 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 proposed.

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:

- The Leader of Government's Business
- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Agriculture & Lands, Marine Resources and Cooperatives

Commented [R1]:

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 proposed.

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	-	Premium	-	agreed to
Clause 5	-	Fees	-	agreed to
Clause 6	-	Annual audit report to be laid in Parliament	-	agreed to
Clause 7	-	Non-Application of legislation to the Corporation	-	agreed to

Clause 8	-	Central Bank relations with the Corporation	-	agreed to
Clause 9	-	Penalty	-	agreed to
Clause 10	-	Offences	-	agreed to
Clause 11	-	Amendment of Schedule	-	agreed to
Clause 12	-	Regulations	-	agreed to
Clause 13	-	Inconsistency	-	agreed to
SCHEDULE	-	EASTERN CARIBBEAN DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AGREEMENT	-	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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House resumes.

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 proposed.

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.

**AGREEMENT ON IMMUNITIES, EXEMPTION AND PRIVILEGES BETWEEN THE
CORPORACIÓN ANDINA DE FOMENTO AND GRENADA BILL, 2025**

The Leader of Government's Business introduced the above-mentioned Bill for its 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 proposed.

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:

- The Leader of Government's Business
- Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Agriculture & Lands, Marine Resources and Cooperatives

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 proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

Clause 2	-	Interpretation	-	agreed to
Clause 3	-	Agreements to have the force of law	-	agreed to

Clause 4	-	Financial Provisions	-	agreed to
Clause 5	-	Exemptions		
Clause 6	-	Amendments to the Schedules	-	agreed to
Clause 7	-	Regulations	-	agreed to
SCHEDULE I	-	AGREEMENT ON IMMUNITIES, EXEMPTION AND PRIVILEGES BETWEEN THE CORPORACIÓN ANDINA DE FOMENTO AND GRENADA	-	agreed to
SCHEDULE	-	SERIES "C" ORDINARY CAPITAL SHARE SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORACIÓN ANDINA DE FOMENTO AND GRENADA		

The Leader of Government's Business 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 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 proposed.

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

Question Proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Sitting of the House adjourned sine die at 12:12 p.m.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Augustine', written over a dotted line.

Andrew Augustine
CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Cato', written over a dotted line.

Leo Cato, Honourable, MP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES