



SENATE

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A SITTING OF THE SENATE
HELD AT THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT. WHELDAL, ST. GEORGE ON
TUESDAY 18TH MARCH, 2025 AND THURSDAY 20TH MARCH, 2025 AT 09:00 A.M.
(BUDGET SITTING)**

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 Evelyn 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 Seville Francis

Parliamentary Secretary within
the Ministry 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 Dr. Myanna Charles	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman	Member of the Senate (Business Representative)
Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair	Member of the Senate (Farmers Representative)

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	Member of the Senate (Labour Representative)

The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:05 a.m.

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by the President.

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 Tuesday 4th February, 2025, 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 Tuesday 4th February, 2025, 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:

Madam President welcomed all Senators present and gave excuse of absence for Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford and the uncertainty of Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph's attendance.

The President further welcomed all visitors in the House and those online to the 2025 Senate Budget Debate.

Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph entered into the Chamber and Madam President welcomed her.

On behalf of the Senate Madam President extended best wishes of good health to Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith Mitchell who felt ill at a public event the night before.

Madam President spoke on Grenada's 51st Anniversary of Independence, and on behalf of the Senate she thanked the organizers, the National Celebrations Committee, and the people of Grenada, led by Her Excellency, Dame Cecile La Grenade and the Prime Minister of Grenada, Honourable Dickon Mitchell for their leadership and their positive support of national independence.

Madam President spoke on the celebrations of International Women's Day on March 8 and mentioned that the Ministry of Social Development, Gender Affairs Division would host a year-long celebration. The President congratulated the Minister and wished all women and girls and the men who supported them happy International Women's Day.

Madam President reported that since the last Sitting the four Committees of the Senate were duly constituted according to the Standing Orders. These four committees are the Senate House Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the Selection Committee and the Senate Privileges Committee. She thanked all the Senators who served on them despite their busy schedules. She expressed that the main takeaway from those four meetings was the need for them to function effectively, so that the Senate can function in its fullness. Thanked the administration under the leadership of the Clerk for the startup of these committees at the beginning of the year.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

There were no Ministerial Statements.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved that the following Papers and Reports be laid on the Table:

1. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2025.
2. Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report 2025 – 2027.
3. Medium Term Debt Management Strategy 2025 - 2027.
4. Annual Debt Report 2023.
5. Report on the use of CCRIF Payout.
6. NOC Report - 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations.
7. Report on Contingency Fund 2024.

Madam President ordered that the Papers be laid before the House and invited Members to make contributions on the Reports/Papers.

The under-mentioned Senator made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

Madam President thanked Senator St. Clair for his panoramic review on the Reports and made remarks.

**Question put and agreed to.
Papers so 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

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

WHEREAS debate on the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament on Friday, 4th October, 2024 was deferred to another date;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the said Address be accepted since the debate today would deliberate on the said subject matter.

Madam President proposed the question to a slightly different part of the Motion, which read:

WHEREAS debate on the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament on Friday, 4th October, 2024, was deferred to a date to be announced;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the said Address be now debated by the Senate.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, advised the President that the Motion should read:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the said Address be not debated and accepted.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved as amended.

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

RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1ST JANUARY, 2025 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2025

WHEREAS it is necessary to provide for the services of the State of Grenada for the Year 2025 by means of an Appropriation Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 1st January, 2025 to 31st December, 2025 be approved.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas

Madam President made remarks in relation to the Senator's presentation and requested that the Senate take a short break to do stretches.

The Senate took a three-minute break.

Madam President asked for the full cooperation of all Members to conclude that day's proceedings by 6 p.m.

- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Opposition Member of the Senate (Deputy President)

Madam President made remarks on the Senator's presentation and also thanked the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition for visiting.

Madam President proposed that the Senate adjourn for lunch for one hour.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Senate resumed at 2:00 p.m.

Debate continued.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator Gloria Thomas, Minister of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)

Madam President made remarks in relation to the Senator's presentation.

- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman

Madam President made remarks in relation to the Senator's presentation.

- Senator Quinc Britton, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture

Madam President made remarks in relation to the Senator's presentation.

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

Madam President made remarks in relation to the Senator's presentation.

Madam President thanked all Senators who presented on that day and all other persons for their presence and adjourned the Senate until Thursday 20th March, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Question proposed.
Question put and agreed to.
Senate adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Senate resumed on
Thursday 20th December, 2025 at 9:10 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 Seville Francis	Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry 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 Dr. Myanna Charles	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford	Opposition Member of the Senate

Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair

Member of the Senate (Farmers Representative)

Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis

Member of the Senate (Labour Representative)

ABSENT

Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman

Member of the Senate (Business Representative)

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by the President.

Madam President greeted Members, persons in the gallery and persons online.

Budget Debate continued.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Seville Francis.

Madam President made remarks about the Senator's presentation and welcomed the Deputy Speaker of the Grenada House of Representatives, Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen.

- Senator the Honourable Dr. Myanna Charles.

Senator Francis rose on a Point-of-Clarification and stated the following: "Through you Madam President, I would like the Honourable Member Dr. Senator Charles to please prove to this Honourable House at which point during my speech I mentioned and the Honourable Member said, and I quote, *"that the Budget for the Ministry of Youth or for the Youth of Grenada is over budgeted."* If that cannot be provided, Madam President, I would like for the Honourable Member to please retract the statement and stop misleading this Honourable House."

Senator Charles continued by saying that was not a Point-of-Clarification and she would not yield and would therefore continue with her debate, if so permitted by the President.

Madam President asked for clarity on the Point-of-Clarification.

Senator Charles repeated the statement she made as follows, “My colleague on the “Other Side” said in a lot of words, that Youth is an area that is over budgeted.” Her words, not mine....”

Madam President stated that it was a Point-of-Information and inquired whether Dr. Charles stood by her statement.

Senator Charles replied in the affirmative.

Madam President told Dr. Charles to proceed.

Dr. Charles continued with her presentation.

Senator Francis again rose.

Madam President asked her whether she had requested the floor.

Senator Francis replied in the affirmative and stated that she was standing on Point-of-Order and asked that the statement by Senator Charles be retracted since such statement was never uttered during her presentation. Therefore, she would like for the Hansard to be reviewed, so that it can be clarified because she did not wish for the young people of the nation to have the misrepresentation and the misconception that their representative is saying that the reduction in the budget is in fact a good thing.

Madam President noted the request for the Hansard and stated that a reply could be given later following the presentation of Senator Charles, and suggested that it could be dealt with under the adjournment.

Senator Norland Cox rose, and the President acknowledged that she would entertain his information.

Senator Cox stated that it was within the right of any member to request a copy of the Hansard for clarity on any matter, He believed both Members felt correct in their responses, so the Hansard would be able to determinate what was said or what was not said and whether comments would be struck off or maintained.

The Leader of Government’s Business, expressed that each Member was listening to both Senators in regards to what was uttered and thought it was up to the President to rule on the matter, and it would be in the best interest to do so before the Senator proceeded with her presentation.

Madam President referenced Standing Orders 35, Interruptions on a Point-of-Order and made the following statement, "Senator Francis is refuting a statement that she is alleged to have made; she is refuting that claim by Senator Charles. I have to be sure that you did not say that to be able to instruct Senator Charles to remove it from her statement, because you did not make it. I don't recall your exact words, I have not seen the Hansard, so if you are confident, if you are repeating that you did not make such a statement then I think it is incumbent on Senator Charles to say she withdraws reference to that statement if you are sure and we are sure that statement was not made by you."

Senator Charles asked that the Hansard be awaited, and when it was reviewed then a decision could be made at that point.

The Leader of Government's Business suggested that the Senate take a five minute recess to verify and clarify the matter and then proceed.

Madam President proposed the adjournment of the Senate and called on Senator Francis, Senator Charles, and the Leader of Government's Business to join her in her office and asked the Clerk to send in the Hansard Report.

Senate adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Senate resumed at 11:40 a.m.

Madam President thanked all the distinguished Members of the Senate, members of the public, and school children for their patience and thanked the Hansard team for producing the written record. She welcomed the school children to the debate on the Estimates and also welcomed the Leader of the Opposition, MP Emmalin Pierre and called on Senator Charles to take the floor.

Senator Charles thanked Madam President for her consultation and stated that it was her interpretation that her colleague on the "Other Side" said, "in a lot of words that youth is an area that is over budgeted, over budgeted to make an excuse for the harsh blow we see in the 2025 budget" and expressed that the facts were there and continued with her presentation.

Senator Francis again rose and stated that she was not standing to disrupt the Honourable Member for disruption's sake, but on a Point-of-Order, and based on the consultation, the agreement was for the statement to be retracted before proceeding, however, a new statement was made, but no retraction of the old statement.

Madam President called on Senator Charles and stated that was the agreement.

Senator Charles stated that it was her understanding that the agreement was to clarify the statement and to state her interpretation of the statement, which was her understanding, and that was agreed on.

Madam President stated it was based on the statement being retracted by the Senator.

Senator Charles again reiterated that it was her understanding that an agreement was made to reformulate, not retract, which was discussed.

There were conversations from both sides of the table.

The President called for order, called on Senator Francis and asked her to state her response openly.

Senator Francis stated the following, “that from the first time she stood, she asked that the statement be retracted and the fact that they went into a private session to discuss and consult, she would not agree for anything less. Therefore, the agreement was that the statement be reformulated to reflect her interpretation, which is fine. However, the statement previously made that is being reformulated must be retracted in order for the new statement to take precedence and to have meaning.”

Madam President called on Senator Charles and asked her to approach the Chair before she spoke.

Madam President and Senator Charles conversed privately.

Senator Charles returned to her place and was offered the floor by the President. The Senator thanked the President for her guidance on the matter and stated that the reformulation that she stated retracted what was said earlier which read “I would like to clarify that it was my interpretation that my colleague on the ‘Other Side’ said in a lot of words that youth is an area that was over budgeted to make an excuse for the harsh blow received in the 2025 budget.” She continued her presentation.

Madam President thanked the Senator for her presentation.

Budget Debate continued.

➤ Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister of Education

Madam President sought clarity from Senator Andrew on whether the sum spoken about was for the victims of Beryl only or whether it was for across the education system.

The Senator replied that it was a response to support families in Carriacou and Petite Martinique who sent their children to continue their education in Grenada at TAMCC.

Madam President thanked Senator Andrew for his presentation and proposed that the Senate break for lunch. The President also thanked Senator Charles for her retraction and her continuation, and thanked Senator Francis for her participation in the consultations with dignity and grace and for her props.

Madam President stated that because the sitting was a little behind schedule, she asked Senator Joseph to allow Senator Lewis to start after lunch.

Senator Dwight Horsford expressed that he had indicated to the Senators that surrounded him that he would like to go first after lunch.

Madam President thanked all for their presence and adjourned for lunch.

Adjourned for lunch at 1:10 p.m.

Resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Madam President convened the Sitting.

Budget Debate continued.

- Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford, Opposition Member of the Senate.

Madam President made remarks on the Senator's presentation.

- Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

Madam President made remarks on the Senator's presentation.

- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Member of the Senate (Labour Representative)

Madam President exited the Chair, and Deputy President took the Chair.

Senator Lewis continued his presentation.

Madam President returned to the Chair.

Senator Lewis continued his presentation.

Madam President made remarks on the Senator's presentation.

- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, thanked all the Senators for their endurance for the two days and congratulated all persons who remained for the debates, showing resilience and commitment and applauded them sincerely. He gave his rebuttal and thanked all Senators on 'Both Sides' for their contributions.

Madam President thanked the Member for his closing statements on the debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion approved.

BILLS

The Clerk read the following message from the House of Representatives:

A Message from the House of Representatives:

To the President and other Members of the Senate

"Madam President, and other Members of the Senate, the House of Representatives at its Sitting on Tuesday 11th February, 2025, concurred with the amendments made by the Senate at its Sitting on Tuesday 4th February, 2025, to the Bills for Acts shortly entitled:

- *Water Resources Management and Regulation Bill, 2025;*
- *National Water and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 2025;*
- *Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025."*

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas stated that the Senate concurred and accepted the amendments made.

APPROPRIATION (2025) BILL, 2025

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 moved the second reading of the bill and advised that he had the Speaker's Certificate to proceed.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senator made contribution:

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Farmer's Representative

Question put and agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

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.

BUDGET AND NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT LOAN AUTHORIZATION BILL, 2025

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 moved the second reading of the bill and advised that he had the Speaker's Certificate to proceed.

Question proposed.

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Opposition Member
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Labour Representative
- Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Farmer's Representative
- The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas spoke to concerns raised by the Members and thanked all for their contribution and commended the bill for second reading.

Madam President sought clarity from the Member on a statement made during 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 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 1:26 p.m. for one hour.

Senate resumed at 2:30 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

There was no public business.

ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas moved the adjournment of the Sitting *sine die*.

The under-mentioned Senators spoke:

- Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Youth, and Sports
- Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Opposition Member
- Senator the Honourable David Andrew, Minister for Education
- Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Labour Representative
- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Farmer's Representative

Madam President left the Chair and Deputy took the Chair during St. Clair's presentation.

Madam President returned and made closing remarks.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned sine die at 8:05 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.

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

Andrew Augustine

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

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

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

Dessima Williams

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE