

PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP | - St. Patrick East
Minister for Finance
Chairman |
| Honourable Dickon Mitchell, MP | - St. David
Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation |
| Honourable Philip A. Telesford, MP | - St. George South-East
Minister for Health |
| Honourable Joseph Andall, MP | - St. Patrick West
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development |
| Honourable Lennox John Andrews, MP | - St. Andrew South West
Minister for Economic Development, Planning and Co-operatives, Agriculture & Lands, Forestry; Blue Economy and Marine Resources; Tourism, the Creative Economy and Culture |
| Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP | - Carriacou & Petite Martinique
Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government |
| Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP | - St. John
Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy |
| Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP | - St. George North-East
Member |
| Honourable Delma Thomas, MP | - St. Andrew North-West
Minister for Mental Health, Wellness, and Religious Affairs, with a special focus on the Mt. Gay Psychiatric Hospital; and Youth and Sports |
| Honourable Andy Williams, MP | - St. George South |

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation

- Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP - **St. Andrew South-East**
Leader of His Majesty's Opposition
- Honourable. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP - **St. Mark**
Member
- Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP - **St. Andrew North-East**
Member

ABSENT

- Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP - **St. George North-West**
Member
- Honourable Peter David, MP - **Town of St. George**
Member

IN ATTENDANCE

- Dr. Adrian Joseph - Senior Administrative Officer
- Mr. Mike Sylvester - Permanent Secretary (Ministry of Finance)
- Mrs. Tonia Adam-Samuel - Chief Policy Analyst (Ministry of Finance)
Mr. Justin Hazzard - Chief Budget Officer (Ministry of Finance)
- Mrs. Chevanne Britton-Telesford - Deputy Permanent Secretary, Policy (Ministry of Finance)
- Mrs. Raquel Morgan - Recording Secretary
- Ms. Janelle Palmer - Recording Secretary
- Mr. Gayvon Mark - Information Technology Officer (Office of the Houses of Parliament)

WELCOME

The Presiding Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall, welcomed all to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chairman asked for a Motion to be moved to adopt the Agenda.

The Honourable Tevin Andrews, moved the Motion, and the Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, seconded the Motion to adopt the Agenda.

PRAYERS

The Chairman asked Honourable Delma Thomas to lead the meeting in prayer.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

The Chairman asked for the Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Wednesday, 19th February, 2025, to be taken as read.

The Motion was moved by Honourable Philip Telesford and seconded by the Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell.

The Chairman ensured that all Members of the Committee had the Minutes of the last Finance Committee at the meeting.

CORRECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES

Page 4 – The first line of the first paragraph was amended to read “***The Chairman introduced the Estimates of Expenditure for 2025 Vote by Vote***”.

MOTION FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

A Motion to confirm the Minutes held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, as amended, was moved by Honourable Tevin Andrews, and seconded by Honourable Ron Redhead.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Page 4 – Second paragraph Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen commented that the documents were circulated on time. She expressed appreciation for the support given to access the large documents, however there were still some issues with being able to access/open the large documents in a timely manner. She pointed out that the

Members of the Opposition anticipates added support on navigating the new technological systems being used to effectively access the large documents in the future.

The Chairman advised the Committee that a new system (the Questica Programme) was introduced to produce the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure that would be more reliable and accurate. He encouraged persons to find a way to more effectively manage the technology to keep abreast.

The Chairman advised that the Ministry of Finance Budget Staff were going all out to prepare and submit the documents for the Budget 2026 scheduled for December, 2025.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters remarked that her challenge was that her personal device used to access the documents was not equip to do so.

The Chairman recommended that the Clerk of Parliament address the matter raised by Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters with providing the means to adequately access government documents.

Further discussions were held and the Chairman advised the Clerk to put measures in place for the avoidance of issues that would cause delays and problems in facilitating meetings.

Page 16 – Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters enquired about the subvention to nation builders mentioned at the top of the page and whether any other subventions were provided.

The Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell replied that another subvention was provided since February, 2025 and that the amount could be provided later.

Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen flagged the matter of a project for the area of Waltham, St. Marks, for the use of the fishermen's boat landing along with a signed contract prior to the General Elections as an unaddressed matter.

The Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure responded by stating that the unaddressed matter existed prior to 2022 and that he was not aware of it. He indicated that an enquiry on the matter would be conducted with the help of Honourable Dr. Modeste-Curwen to provide the information on the contract and contractor to address the matter.

Honourable Dr. Modeste-Curwen agreed to provide the necessary information to the Minister and Ministry of Infrastructure.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2026

The Chairman made brief remarks and advised on the following:

The Finance Committee was invited to consider and approve the draft estimates of expenditure for the year 2026, covering votes' one through sixty four, as well as the 2026 budget and work plan for the Office of the Integrity Commission and Office of the Ombudsman.

The 2026 draft Estimates were prepared using the Questica Budget Management System, which was intended to streamline the presentation of budget information and strengthen the overall budget process. Although it was the second year of implementation which represents a significant improvement, there were still some formatting and presentation issues to be refined. The Ministry of Finance would be actively working to resolve those issues prior to the submission of the final Estimates to the Parliament.

The introduction of a new classification called Initiatives in the Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for 2026 which were recurring programs that do not have a fixed implementation time frame, previously grouped under Capital Projects. This was aimed to improve the transparency in the presentation of the public expenditure.

The total proposed expenditure for 2026 amounts to **\$1,960,013,909** allocated as follows:

Recurrent Expenditure including principal repayments **\$1,382,859,014**;
Initiatives **\$206,722,213**;
Capital Expenditure **\$370,432,682**.

Members had been advised that for ease of navigation, the draft estimates can be downloaded as a PDF document.

Advised that the Ministry of Finance team was also present to provide clarification on the draft Estimates as needed, namely: Mr. Mike Sylvester - Permanent Secretary; Mrs. Chevonne Britton-Telesford - Deputy Permanent Secretary; Mr. Justin Hazzard - the Chief Budget Officer and Mrs. Tonya Adams-Samuel - Chief Policy Analyst.

The Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre asked the Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall to share the information that he presented.

The Chairman agreed to provide the information and asked that it be made available to the Clerk of Parliament to share with Members.

The Chairman named the tables and the abstracts using the Table of Contents and proceeded Vote by Vote, ensuring all Members had access to the document.

Vote 101	-	Governor General	-	Total
				1,037,422

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Approved.

	-		-	Total
Vote 102	-	Parliament	-	8,925,299

Approved.

				Total
Vote 103	-	Supreme Court	-	12,298,191

Approved.

				Total
Vote 104	-	Magistracy	-	3,383,101

Approved.

				Total
Vote 105	-	Audit	-	2,352,980

Approved.

				Total
Vote 106	-	Public Service Commission	-	1,689,037

Approved.

				Total
Vote 107	-	Director of Public Prosecutions	-	1,518,507

Approved.

Total

Vote 108 - Electoral Office - 6,738,951

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters inquired whether the Parliamentary Elections Office had procured the equipment to facilitate training, among other things.

The Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell advised that it was still in the process of being done.

The Chairman reinforced that the equipment would be purchased and that training would be conducted in due course.

Approved.

Vote 109 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Labour, and Consumer Affairs - Total 13,964,789

Approved.

Vote 110 - Office of the Prime Minister - Total 102,566,180

The Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre inquired of the significant increase under the Prime Minister's Ministry, noting her difficulty with navigating through the document since she only received it one day prior.

Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell explained the difference between the figures in the 2025 Estimates with that of the 2026 Estimates. He pointed out that it was only one area with a significant increase which was for the Digital Transformation Office, CARDIP Project.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance further explained that Cabinet took a decision to transfer the budget for IMA from Finance to the Prime Minister's office which was a Budget of about \$50 million.

Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre sought further clarity to ensure that everyone was speaking on the same matter.

Honourable Phillip Telesford responded to the queries made by the Opposition Leader in relation to receiving the documents and provided precise details on the delivery of the documents.

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall noted the queries raised and expressed that proper equipment and official emails should be provided by the Parliament to enable Members to access their documents in a timely manner.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre expressed that her statement was not an allegation, but spoke in order to help solve multiple problems that existed. She stated that there was a difference between sending the documents on time and someone being able to access the document.

She further asked that it be recorded accurately that the documents were sent only yesterday and with the help of the technical expert at Parliament, an alternative means, WeTransfer, which had never in the last 20 years been used to send a document and that was the means that was finally used to help to access the document and therefore was very appreciative. She also pointed out that although, new emails and new passwords were created and used it was not accessing the document. Therefore the matter was raised with good intention to solve the problem which meant that it was no attack on any individual.

Approved.

				Total
Vote 111	-	Prisons	-	12,979,503

Approved.

				Total
Vote 112	-	Police	-	110,784,674

Approved.

				Total
Vote 115	-	Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy, and Culture	-	53,115,231

Approved.

				Total
Vote 116	-	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Export Development	-	24,726,131

Approved.

				Total
Vote 117	-	Financial Intelligence Unit	-	1,646,296

Approved.

			Total
Vote 118	-	Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs, Public Administration, Information, and Disaster Management	- 46,711,450

The Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs, Public Administration, Information and Disaster Management.

Members of the Opposition expressed difficulty in scrolling through the document. Honourable Kerrne James and Honourable Ron Redhead provided assistance to navigate the document.

The Chairman encouraged Members to go through their document prior to the meeting.

Honourable Tevin Andrew advised that the Opposition Members should be provided with technical assistance.

Approved.

			Total
Vote 119	-	Ministry of Youth and Sports	- 69,627,843

Approved.

			Total
Vote 120	-	Ministry of Finance	- 111,574,498

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters noted that under Capital Expenditure for 2026, some of the programs had zero and questioned whether they were moved to another place or no longer existed.

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall explained that in previous years those items were classified under Capital Projects and reiterated his earlier statement that a new section called, "Initiatives" was included in the document that gave the details.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Honourable Modeste-Curwen inquired whether the detailed information was under "Initiatives".

The Chairman, replied in the affirmative.

The Permanent Secretary - Finance provided further clarity by giving examples.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters expressed her understanding, but was not seeing the Line Item for Youth Economy that the PS mentioned.

The Chairman, assured the Member that it was there.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters inquired on what area the swimming pool fell under.

Honourable Delma Thomas explained that the swimming pool would be completed at the end of 2025 and therefore the allocation of \$1 million was for maintenance.

The Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre asked for an explanatory note or a definition within the document as it related to the difference between expenditure that was Capital and those that were Initiatives.

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall again agreed to provide information to differentiate between Capital Projects that used to be in the past and the new itemization of Initiatives.

The Permanent Secretary – Finance explained that once there were changes to the Budget an explanatory note section was placed at the beginning of the Budget document.

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall again encouraged Members to read the fine prints and notes.

Mr. Justin Hazzard – Chief Budget Officer provided an explanation between an Initiative that didn't have an end date and a Project which has an end date and provided examples.

Approved.

			Total
Vote 121	-	Pensions and Gratuities	- 120,224,295

Approved.

Total

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Vote 122 - Charges on Account of Public Debt - 393,716,249

Approved.

Vote 125 - Contributions - Total 25,158,201

Approved.

Vote 126 - Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, and Co-operatives - Total 41,410,693

Approved.

Vote 128 - Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy - Total 19,095,395

Honourable Kate-Lewis Peters inquired under the Line Item of Salary the vast difference in figures between 2025 and 2026.

Mr. Justin Hazzard – Chief Budget Officer explained that in 2025 the amount was \$1.5 million and was raised to \$1.7 million in 2026 which was due to the regularization process.

Approved.

Vote 129 - Ministry of Mobilisation Implementation and Transformation - Total 45,429,073

Approved.

Vote 130 - Ministry of Infrastructure, Physical Development, Public Utilities, - Total 187,235,505

Civil Aviation and Transportation

Approved.

		Total
Vote 135	- Ministry of Social and Community Development, and Gender Affairs	- 69,516,303

Approved.

		Total
Vote 136	- Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government	- 64,759,347

Approved.

		Total
Vote 138	- Ministry of Housing	- 15,550,829

Approved.

		Total
Vote 140	- Ministry of Education	- 179,646,635

Approved.

		Total
Vote 150	- Ministry of Health	- 137,042,487

Approved.

		Total
Vote 152	- Ministry of Mental Health, Wellness and Religious Affairs	- 18,617,020

Approved.

		Total
Vote 161	- Ministry of the Blue Economy and Marine Affairs	- 16,433,242

Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre pointed out that under MIT she noticed there was a reference there to the Blue Economy and therefore requested an explanation.

Honourable Andy Williams explained that it was unleashing the Blue Economy which was a World Bank project called UBEC and MIT was the one overseeing it.

Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre asked for an explanation and description of what the project entailed.

Honourable Andy Williams further explained that the project involved the US\$10 million component for food security. However, the implementation process was slow, and MIT took it over to speed it up, but it was not a project associated with MIT. He promised to provide the Member with a brief.

Opposition Leader, Honourable Emmalin Pierre again kindly requested more details on the project from Finance as to what it actually involved.

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall promised to provide the information requested.

Permanent Secretary – Finance expressed that the Ministry of MIT can provide background information, but explained that the project was a World Bank-supported Project that had to do with developing the marine assets of Grenada with several components to deal with issues of biodiversity, providing support to fisher folks, etcetera.

Approved.

			Total
Vote 164	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and Forestry	- 40,538,553

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN BUDGET 2026

On the advice of the Permanent Secretary, Mr Mike Sylvester, the Chairman shared within the Vote 02, line item 26 Grants and Contributions; 262 – Grants and Contribution to Government Agencies and Local Organisations, the Ombudsman 2026 Estimate is included in the sum of **\$303,204,00**.

Approved.

INTEGRITY COMMISSION BUDGET 2026

On the advice of the Permanent Secretary, Mr Mike Sylvester, the Chairman shared that the Integrity Commission would receive a budget of **\$1,200,000.00**

Approved

Summary

Total Expenditure: \$1,960,013,910

This is allocated as follows:

Recurrent Expenditure (inclusive of principal repayments): \$1,382,859,015

Initiatives: \$206,722,213

Capital	Expenditure:	\$370,432,682
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the Committee that the scheduled date for the Budget Presentation would be 1st December, 2025. The Debates for the 2026 Budget would begin on Wednesday 3rd December, 2025.

The Chairman put the question to the Committee and the Committee agreed.

The Chairman proposed that the Senate would debate the Budget the following Monday dated 8th December, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman thanked all the Honourable Members for their active participation, in the meeting of the Finance Committee.

The Motion for the adjournment of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance was moved by Honourable Kerryne James and seconded by Honourable Ron Redhead.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.



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Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
CHAIRMAN