



GRENADA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

**THIRD SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

---

**SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*(Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament)*

FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

**Table of Contents**

Attendance .....	3
Proclamation .....	7
Prayers.....	8
Oath of Allegiance / Affirmation.....	8
Adjournment (To await the Governor-General) .....	9
Resumption .....	9
Deliverance of the Throne Speech .....	10
Motions.....	17
Departure of the Governor-General .....	18
Motions.....	18
Adjournment.....	18

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Attendance***

**PRESENT**

*Senate*

Madam President

Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams

*in the Chair*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 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 Dwight Hosford     | - Opposition Member of the Senate  |
| 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.)  |

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Attendance***

**ABSENT**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas      | - Minister of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture                           |
| Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph   | - Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs |
| Senator the Honourable Dr. Myanna Charles | - Opposition Member of the Senate   |

**Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Attendance**

**PRESENT**

*House of Representatives*

Mr. Speaker

Honourable Leo Cato, MP

*in the Chair*

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, MP <i>(St. David)</i>	- 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 <i>(St. George South East)</i>	- Minister for Health
Honourable Joseph Andall, MP <i>(St. Patrick West)</i>	- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development
Honourable Lennox John Andrews, MP <i>(St. Andrew South West)</i>	- Minister for Economic Development, Planning and Co-operatives, Agriculture & Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources
Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP <i>(Carriacou &amp; Petite Martinique)</i>	- Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government
Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP <i>(St. Patrick East)</i>	- Minister for Finance
Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP <i>(St. John)</i>	- Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP <i>(St. George North East)</i>	Member
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP <i>(St. Andrew North West)</i>	- Minister for Youth and Sport, Mental Health, Wellness, and Religious Affairs, with a special focus on the Mt. Gay Psychiatric Hospital
Honourable Andy Williams, MP <i>(St. George South)</i>	Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation
Honourable. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP <i>(St. Mark)</i>	- Deputy Speaker
Honourable Peter David, MP <i>(Town of St. George)</i>	- Member

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Attendance***

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP - Member  
*(St. Andrew North-East)*

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP - Member  
*(St. Andrew South East)*

**ABSENT**

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP - Leader of His Majesty's Opposition  
*(St. George North West)*

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Proclamation***

**Clerk:** A Proclamation by the Governor-General, Dame Cécile E. F. La Grenade.

**WHEREAS** by Proclamation dated the 13th day of September 2024, issued under subsection (1) of section 52 of the Constitution of Grenada, Parliament was prorogued on the 23rd day of September 2024;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by subsection (1) of section 51 of the Constitution of Grenada that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place within Grenada and shall commence at such time as the Governor-General may by Proclamation appoint;

**AND WHEREAS** it is further provided by subsection (2) of section 51 of the Constitution of Grenada that there shall be a session of Parliament once at least in every year, so that a period of six months shall not intervene between the last sitting of Parliament in one session and the first sitting in the next session;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, CÉCILE LA GRENADE, Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor-General in and over Grenada do hereby appoint the Parliament Building at Mount Wheldale in the Town of Saint George as the place where the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament shall be held at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on Friday the 4th day of October 2024, as a time at which the said session shall begin;

**AND MEMBERS** of the said Parliament and all other His Majesty's Officers and loving subjects in Grenada, and all others whom it may concern, are hereby required to take due notice hereof and give their ready obedience accordingly.

**GIVEN** under my hand and the Public Seal of Grenada, this 24th day of September 2024, in the second year of the reign of **HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES THE THIRD**.

**GOD SAVE THE KING.**

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Prayers***

***Oath of Allegiance / Affirmation***

**(Senate Prayer was said)**

**(House Prayer was said)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Please join me in saying the Lord's Prayer.

**(The Lord's Prayer was said)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Pray be seated.

**Madam President:** Members of both Houses of Parliament... **(Inaudible comment)**

**Clerk:** Item 3 – Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Senator.

**(Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford proceed to the Clerk's Table)**

**Sen. the Hon. Dwight Horsford:** I, Dwight Horsford, do swear that I would bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, His Heirs and Successors according to Law. So help me, God.

**(Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford signs the Oath Book)**

**(The Clerk shakes Senator Horsford's hand)**

**(Applause)**

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Adjournment (To await the Governor-General)  
Resumption***

**Madam President:** Senator Horsford, welcome. Members of Both Houses, it is my duty to announce the sad passing of Sir. Danny Williams, Q. C., Queen's Counsel, former Governor-General of Grenada.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, against this backdrop, the passing of the late Sir Danny Williams, former Governor-General, both Houses of Parliament would have a Special Sitting in honour of the late Sir Danny Williams.

**Madam President:** Honourable Members, is it your wish that the Houses do now adjourn during pleasure to await the arrival of Her Excellency the Governor-General?

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Houses adjourned at 10:20 a.m. to await the arrival of the Governor-General.**

**The Houses resumed at 10:43 a.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, this Honourable House is now back in session.

**Madam President:** Pray be seated.

**(Fanfare of trumpets sounded)**

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order, order. All rise.

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

**(The Governor-General ascends the steps of the Throne, faces the assembled company and bows to the right and then to the left)**

**Madam President:** Honourable Members, we shall now observe a minute of silence in honour of Sir Danny Williams.

**(Moment of Silence observed)**

**Her Excellency, Dame Cécile La Grenade:** Pray be seated.

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** All sit.

**(The Prime Minister, Honourable Dickon Mitchell, hands “The Throne Speech” to the Governor-General and returns to his seat)**

**Her Excellency, Dame Cécile La Grenade:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, good morning. As we gather today to mark this Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament, I am reminded that the strength of our democracy lies in our collective commitment to work together in the best interest of the citizens of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Today, I stand before you with a great sense of pride and gratitude because, despite the challenges of this year, our collective commitment to serve our beloved nation has never been greater.

***Golden Jubilee***

On February 7, 2024, our nation marked its 50 years of independence—a defining achievement for our country—under the theme, “**One People, One Journey, One Future**” a testament to the strength, resilience, unity and triumph of our people. This historic milestone was marked by a yearlong commemorative celebration of events, projects, programmatic and policy initiatives truly befitting of our golden jubilee, and which will

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

culminate this month with the St. David parish celebrations. Notably, the celebratory activities included:

- i) The issuance of a 50th-anniversary independence commemorative EC\$50 note, which is currently in circulation;
- ii) The declaring of 19th October as a national public holiday in solemn recognition, reflection and appreciation of the sacrifices of our heroes;
- iii) The introduction and teaching of Grenadian history in our schools; which began in September 2023;
- iv) The publication of a 50th Anniversary Magazine which documents the stories of past and present Grenadians who have made significant contributions to our beloved nation;
- v) The establishing of the CARICOM Roundabout, which saw the attendance of CARICOM leaders during the recently held 47th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community;
- vi) Parish activities culminating in a magnificent national Independence Day parade with a spectacular drone and fireworks show which depicted the creativity of our people, the historic influencers who shaped this nation's destiny and our iconic landmarks.

***Hurricane Beryl***

But, Madam President, Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2024, the passage of Hurricane Beryl tested the resilience of our people. The hurricane ravished our shores, destroying infrastructure, schools, agriculture, wiping out entire communities in some instances and disrupting livelihoods in the northern part of Grenada, especially on Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Despite this devastation, we continue to look ahead with a shared sense of duty, determined to meet and overcome the challenges brought to us by Hurricane Beryl. The People of Carriacou and Petite Martinique found solace not only in our shared strength but also in the overwhelming support received from our fellow countrymen, our citizens in the diaspora, our regional neighbours and international partners.

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

I place on record our immense gratitude to all our partners and friends throughout the world for their support in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. I also place on record my Government's appreciation and gratitude to all first responders, including the NADMA staff, GRENLEC and NAWASA employees, police and prison officers, health care workers, sanitation workers, and the numerous volunteers from Grenada, the Caribbean region and beyond who selflessly assisted those in need.

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, it is in moments of challenge that the seeds of progress are sown. My Government acted with purpose and determination in preparing for and responding to the impact of Hurricane Beryl. Our citizens were kept fully abreast of the developments before, during and after the Hurricane. Through our National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), we coordinated relief to our affected citizens and conducted initial damage assessments. We have embarked on critical recovery and reconstruction efforts. In this new session of Parliament, we will intensify our rebuilding efforts.

***Theme***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, together, we will embark on a journey to reconstruct, revitalise and renew our resolve to transform our nation. Our aim is not just to replace lost or damaged social and economic assets, but to build back better and more resilient. With this in mind, we have chosen the theme for this new session of Parliament as, **"Unifying our focus toward vision 75"** as we continue to build, together, a just nation where every citizen has an equal opportunity to realise his or her fullest potential. This theme is deeply rooted in our, **"Vision 2035" – Grenada, a resilient and prosperous nation, with a conscious and caring citizenry, promoting human dignity, and realising its full potential through sustainable economic, social and environmental progress for all."**

As we define our vision for the next 25 years—vision 75, my Government has been committed to laying the strong foundation required to take our people forward and with God's grace, to creating a better Grenada for all of Grenada. Our nation's recovery will

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

not merely focus on rebuilding what was lost but on laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient future.

Accordingly, in this session of Parliament, my Government will focus on rebuilding a more resilient Carriacou and Petite Martinique while advancing Government's transformative agenda.

***Reconstruction and Recovery***

The path to recovery begins with rebuilding the physical and social infrastructure that has been ravaged. Our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses must be restored. Our response will focus on:

- i) Restoring critical infrastructure with emphasis on disaster resilience.
- ii) Providing support and incentives for businesses to reopen and create jobs.
- iii) Continuing to provide support for our citizens impacted by the hurricane.

Our reconstruction efforts will be guided by our National Building Code and other standards, in order to ensure that the new infrastructure is not only restored but built to withstand future challenges. A comprehensive national recovery plan is being developed, with the full engagement of our local, regional and international partners. These efforts will prioritize the inclusion of local workers and contractors, ensuring that the fruits of this recovery benefit our citizens first and foremost.

***Education and Skills Development***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, my Government continues to stress the importance of developing and empowering our people—in particular, our human resources, which constitute our country's greatest asset. Education remains the foundation of our nation's long-term growth and stability. The hurricane severely impacted our schools, but it also revealed the importance of preparing our students and workers for a rapidly changing world.

In this new session of Parliament, my Government will continue its focus on improving access to education, improving schools' infrastructure, expanding access to digital learning tools to ensure that all students—no matter their circumstance—can continue their education uninterrupted—and enhance the curriculum with a focus on

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

Technical and Vocational Skills Development—equipping our young people with the skills needed for employment across all sectors of our economy, including emerging sectors such as technology and renewable energy.

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, through these efforts, we will prepare our youth not only to rebuild our nation but to lead it into a future of innovation and progress.

***Health and Wellness***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, my Government underscores its commitment to transforming our health care system as one of its top priorities, with the goal of making Grenada the health capital of the Eastern Caribbean. At the centre of the transformation of the health sector is the New Climate Smart Medical City with Teaching Facilities. A key component of this project will be upgrading the existing healthcare service delivery to facilitate a smooth transition into the new hospital. This new state-of-the-art facility will:

- i) Increase our capacity to deliver specialised medical care.
- ii) Be equipped with modern technology to ensure quality care.
- iii) Provide a higher standard of patient care.

The new hospital project is expected to break ground in 2026.

We also know that a significant amount of additional resources, investment and incentives is required to attract, train and keep our health care professionals and that this is key to the transformation of the health sector. Government is committed to addressing this issue and more details of my Government's policies on this issue will be enunciated in the upcoming budget, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

***Energy Transition, Environmental Sustainability***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, my Government reiterates its commitment to transitioning to green energy and promoting environmental sustainability. In this context, we must ensure that our energy infrastructure is modern, sustainable and climate resilient. The Government is committed to addressing this issue and more details of my Government's policies on this issue will be enunciated in the upcoming budget, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

***Housing***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Beryl has exacerbated the Housing deficit in our nation. My Government remains committed to improving the quality of the housing stock and addressing key deficiencies in the housing sector, including building resilience to natural hazards.

Accordingly, to address the housing needs exacerbated by Hurricane Beryl, the Government is taking several measures, including:

- i) Project Build Back Better.
- ii) Project 500.
- iii) The grant of tax incentives and waivers to support homeowners who are rebuilding or repairing their homes from the damage caused by Hurricane Beryl.
- iv) The continuation of the housing repair and assistance programme.
- v) The sale and distribution of the affordable housing units built by the Government of China.
- vi) The use of modular housing.

***Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, the agriculture and marine sectors, main pillars of our economy, were devastated by the passage of Hurricane Beryl. My Government is fully committed to reviving this sector, which is vital for food and nutrition security, employment and export earnings. The emergency response plan focuses on income support to farmers and fisher folk, farm labour support and farm input support. The recovery plan for the sector will focus on:

- i) Investing in modern farming techniques, sustainable practices and climate-resilient crop varieties.
- ii) Revitalising the marine sector with an emphasis on sustainable practices and better marine resource management.
- iii) Supporting the revitalisation of the livestock and poultry sectors.

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech***

- iv) Building the sector's resilience to climate change, including enhanced insurance coverage.

***National Security***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, the preservation of public peace and safety remains a major priority for my Government. We will continue to pursue policies that discourage crime and anti-social behaviour while at the same time keeping our no-nonsense approach to crime, in particular, gun and firearms-related crime. We will continue to support our police and prison officers through the provision of better equipment and upgrading their facilities. My Government will also begin the process of prison reform, including the identification of land for, and the modelling for a new prison.

***Legislative Agenda***

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, in the upcoming session of Parliament, my Government will prioritise a legislative agenda focused on fostering economic resilience, advancing social equity and combating climate change. Some of the key initiatives will include:

- i) New procurement legislation.
- ii) Energy efficiency legislation.
- iii) Deposit insurance legislation.
- iv) Pension Reform legislation.

More details of my Government's policies, projects and programmes will be enunciated in the upcoming budget, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, my Government reaffirms our collective commitment to serve the people with integrity, wisdom, and dedication. In all respects, my Government is committed to making and implementing long-term strategic decisions that will be beneficial to future generations of Grenada as it continues its mission to transform Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique with thoughtful decision-making, always mindful of the trust placed in us by those we serve.

As we move forward, let us do so with unity of purpose, keeping the well-being of every citizen at the heart of our efforts. We remember the people of St. Patrick, Carriacou

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Deliverance of the Throne Speech  
Motions***

and Petite Martinique as we continue in our rebuilding of more resilient homes, infrastructure and the livelihoods of our people. The challenges before us are many, but so are the opportunities to build a future that is more just, prosperous, and inclusive.

I urge each of you, as representatives of the people, to approach the tasks that lie ahead with resolve and compassion. Let us commit to working together, with diligence and unwavering resolve, so that we can realise a better Grenada for all.

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, it is therefore my distinct pleasure to declare the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament open. Thank you, and may God continue to bless us all. **(Applause)**

**Hon. Dickon Mitchell:** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Honourable Houses of Parliament record their thanks for the Gracious Address delivered today to the Houses by Her Excellency, the Governor-General;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the debate on the Address be deferred to a date to be named.

**Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion as put forward by the Honourable Prime Minister.

**Sen. the Hon. Gloria Thomas:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate the Senate with the sentiments expressed in the Motion.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the Motion as made by the Leader of Government Business in the Senate.

**Mr. Speaker proposed the question to the House of Representatives.**

**Madam President proposed the question to the Senate.**

**Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Departure of the Governor-General  
Motions  
Adjournment**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**(Fanfare of trumpets sounded)**

**(The Governor-General rises)**

**(The Governor-General bows to the right and to the left and takes leave of the Chamber, followed by the Aide-de-Camp and the Governor-General's Lady-in-Waiting)**

**Hon. Phillip Telesford:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Honourable House be adjourned *sine die*.

**Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion as presented by the Leader of Government Business.

**Sen. the Hon. Gloria Thomas:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate the Senate with the sentiments of the Motion.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Madam President, Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the Motion as made by the Leader of Government Business in the Senate.

**Mr. Speaker proposed the question to the House of Representatives.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Madam President proposed the question to the Senate.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

***Ceremonial State Opening of the Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament  
held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024***

***Adjournment***

**(Sound of gavel)**

**Mr. Speaker:** This Honourable House is now adjourned ***sine die***.

**The Sitting of the Houses adjourned *sine die* at 11:00 a.m.**

**PREPARED BY**

**HANSARD REPORTER**

Ms. Jasmine Redhead

**EDITORS**

Mr. Andrew Augustine (Clerk)

Ms. Leasha Francis (Senior Hansard Reporter, Ag.)