



GRENADA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

THIRD SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY 24TH JULY, 2025

*The Sitting of the House of Representatives
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's
on Thursday 24th July, 2025*

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Attendance

PRESENT

Mr. Speaker

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, and Transportation, and Information and Communications Technology

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 and Marine Resources

Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP
(Carriacou & Petite Martinique)

- Minister for Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
(St. Patrick East)

- Minister for Finance

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

Honourable Andy Williams, MP
(St. George South)

- Minister for Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation

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Attendance

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP
<i>(St. Andrew South East)</i> | - Leader of His Majesty's Opposition |
| Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP
<i>(St. George North West)</i> | - Member |
| Honourable. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, MP
<i>(St. Mark)</i> | - Deputy Speaker |
| Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP
<i>(St. Andrew North East)</i> | - Member |
| Honourable Peter David, MP
<i>(Town of St. George)</i> | - Member |

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*Prayers
Minutes*

The Sitting of the House of Representatives began at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Let's pray.

(House Prayer was said)

Mr. Speaker: Join me in saying the Lord's Prayer.

(The Lord's Prayer was said)

Mr. Speaker: Pray be seated.

(Sound of gavel)

Mr. Speaker: This Honourable House now commences.

Deputy Clerk (Ag.): Item 3 – Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Member.
Item 4 – Confirmation of Minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the House of Representatives held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Tuesday the 17th of June 2025 be taken as read.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes taken as read.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

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**Minutes
Announcements**

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the House of Representatives held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on the 17th of June 2025, at 9:00 am be confirmed.

Question put and agreed to.

Minutes confirmed.

Deputy Clerk (Ag.): Item 5 – Messages from the Governor-General.

Item 6 – Announcements by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, I wish to inform this Honourable House of the Bills which have been passed in this Honourable House, and have received the assent of the Governor-General.

- Appropriation Bill, 2025;
- Budget and New Hospital Project Loan Authorisation Bill, 2025;
- Tax Administration (Post-Beryl Fiscal Support) (Special Measures) Bill, 2025;
- The Eastern Caribbean Asset Management Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
- Payment System and Services Bill, 2025;
- Eastern Caribbean Deposit Insurance Corporation Agreement Bill, 2025;
- Agreement on Immunities, Exemptions and Privileges between the Corporación Andina de Fomento and Grenada Bill, 2025;
- Bank Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and
- Grenada Tourism Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

All of the above have received the assent from the Governor-General. I wish to also announce that from August 1 to August 31, Parliament will be on recess. Those are my announcements.

Deputy Clerk: Item 7 – Presentation of Petitions.

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Presentations of Papers/ Reports

Item 8 – Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select
Committees.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay on the Table the following Papers and Reports.

- Grenada Citizenship by Investment Report to the Grenada Houses of Parliament for the reporting period 1st January 2024 to 30th June 2024;
- Grenada Citizenship by Investment Report to the Grenada Houses of Parliament for the reporting period 1st July 2024, to 31st December 2024;
- NIS Grenada – National Insurance Board – Annual Report 2023; and
- NIS Grenada – National Insurance Board – Annual Report 2024.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Government's Business. Honourable Members, these Papers and Reports have now been laid.

Deputy Clerk (Ag.): Item 9 – Unopposed Private Business.

Item 10 – Questions.

Item 11 – Urgent Questions under the provisions of Standing
Order No. 20 (1) (Notice of Questions).

Item 12 – Statements by Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: Can you please proceed?

Deputy Clerk (Ag.): Item 13 – Personal Explanations.

Item 14 – Motions.

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Bills: Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025

Item 15 – Bills.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to... Just give me a few minutes, please. Just give me a few seconds, please, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I just wanted to align myself properly. Mr. Speaker, I beg to introduce for first reading a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025.

Clerk: A Bill which seeks to amend Schedule 3 to the Constitution and Schedule 1 to the Courts Order to change the Oath of Allegiance from "His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors" to "Grenada", shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at this Sitting.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

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Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend Schedule 3 of the Constitution and Schedule 1 to the Courts Order to change the Oath of Allegiance from “His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors” to “Grenada”.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, contains six clauses. Clause 1, Mr. Speaker, addresses the short title and the commencement date of the Bill. This Act, Mr. Speaker, shall enter into force on the 1st day of August, 2025 and this, Mr. Speaker, coincides with the new date of Emancipation, making a significant and symbolic change, underscoring Grenada’s Emancipation. Mr. Speaker, Clause 2 addresses the interpretation of terms.

Clause 3, Mr. Speaker, treats with the amendment of Schedule 3 to the Constitution. Schedule 3 to the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, in the Oath of Allegiance, it is amended by deleting the words “His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors” and substituting therefor the word “Grenada”. In relation to the following provisions of the Constitution:

- Section 20, in respect of the Governor-General taking the oath;
- Section 40, Mr. Speaker, in respect of the Members of the House of Representatives or Houses of Parliament taking the oath;
- Section 65, Mr. Speaker, with respect to Ministers of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretaries taking the oath;
- Section 95 (1), in respect of citizens by marriage taking the oath; and
- Section 98, Mr. Speaker, citizens by marriage taking the oath.

Clause 4, Mr. Speaker, seeks to amend Schedule 1 to the Courts Order. Schedule 1 is amended by substituting “His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors” for “Grenada” and Schedule 1 to the Courts Order is amended in the oath

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for due execution of office and the affirmation for due execution of office by deleting the words “His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors” and substituting therefor “Grenada”.

Clause 5, Mr. Speaker, speaks to consequential amendments to laws other than in the Constitution itself and the Court's Order and again, Mr. Speaker, making similar substitutions.

Clause 6, Mr. Speaker, speaks to transitional provisions as to the Oath of Allegiance. On the expiry of 12 hours immediately following the commencement of the appointed date, the Oath of Allegiance sworn or solemnly affirmed by any functionary prior to the appointed day shall cease to have force, and such functionary shall, within seven days immediately following the commencement of the appointed day, swear or solemnly affirm to the Oath of Allegiance which shall come into force with effect from the commencement of the appointed day—

Provided that for any reason, any functionary did not swear or solemnly affirm to the Oath of Allegiance within those said 7 days, such functionary shall be deemed to have sworn or solemnly affirmed thereto immediately upon the expiry of the seven-day period. Mr. Speaker, in this section, the appointed day refers to the 1st day of August 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this change, substituting “King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors” for “Grenada”, fits snugly with the words of our national anthem as written by Mrs. Irva Merle Baptiste-Blackett that says “Hail Grenada, Land of Ours, We pledge ourselves to Thee”. It is also consistent with our national pledge, Mr. Speaker, as written by Mr. Creswell Julien, OBE, which says “I pledge allegiance to the Flag and to the country for which it stands with liberty, justice and equality for all...”—speaking about Grenada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, both architects of the anthem and pledge, Grenadians, at the time of writing the pledge and anthem, recognised the importance of swearing allegiance not to the monarchy, but to Grenada. Mr. Speaker, both the national anthem and the national pledge are symbols of our national independence, but I have two important questions this morning, Mr. Speaker. Two questions. Mr. Speaker, why in 1974, when the Constitution

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was handed to us by our leaders, did they not ensure that our allegiance was changed to Grenada instead of continuing allegiance to the monarchy? That's my first question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my second question is why, after 51 years of becoming an independent state, no other leader, premier, or prime minister saw it fit to amend the Constitution to accommodate this important change? Why, after 51 years of independence from Great Britain, do we continue to pledge allegiance to Great Britain?

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pause and to thank our Honourable Prime Minister, Attorney General and the citizens of the Constitutional Reform Committee for the work done to take us here **(applause)**, because I believe this is important, Mr. Speaker, to us as a people to recognise that our allegiance should be to our country, to serve protect and honour our country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe if as a people we begin to recognise the importance of Emancipation, the importance of what it means to be Grenadian, I believe we will have less violence, less partisanship and more togetherness, more unity, more love, and a stronger nation.

Mr. Speaker, this significant symbolic change is coming at a time when, for the first time, legislation was enacted to acknowledge our Emancipation on the 1st of August. Mr. Speaker, this is our second step towards genuine Emancipation. My argument, Mr. Speaker, is that this Bill has nothing to do with independence. This Bill, Mr. Speaker, has nothing to do with independence, but instead it has everything to do with our emancipation, our freedom, our severing of the umbilical cord to the monarchy. That's what this addresses, and becoming genuinely an independent nation.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, comes at a time when Grenada is hosting the African and Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF). We welcome our African and Caribbean brothers and sisters, a symbol of our patriarchal unity. The forum, Mr. Speaker, is expected to ask a number of tough questions on how we can together forge a stronger relationship with the African continent and Caribbean brothers and sisters. How can we come together to forge stronger relationships, stronger alliances? How can

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we, Mr. Speaker, leverage the advantage we have as a people?

So, Mr. Speaker, the question still remain unanswered. How should we commemorate our Emancipation? Is it a time when we showcase our creativity in dance, culture and the performing arts? Should we acknowledge our athletes who have made us proud across various sporting disciplines? Is that what Emancipation should really be?

Should we showcase our breadfruit, cocoa, nutmeg and other national crops and the many value-added products that our creative sons and daughters of this land have created for us? Should we showcase our many products made by Grenadian hands?

Should we buy and eat local just for 31 days, the month of August, every year? Should we wear our national colours for 31 days, during the month of August, every year?

Should we erect landmarks of our achievement as a proud people as a symbol of our Emancipation? Should we?

Should we reflect on our past on what it meant to be Africans, Africans from the Congo, Africans from Nigeria, Africans from Angola, Senegal, Gambia, Cameroon, Liberia, and the Ivory Coast? You see, this is where we came from, Mr. Speaker. Should we reflect on where we came from? Should we be tracing back our roots?

Should we, Mr. Speaker, be reflecting on the journey across the Atlantic? What it was like, the impact of sardines and the horrors that we endure make us as strong and resilient as a people.

Should we reflect on the time spent on the plantation as “Massa” paraded the plantation and looked at his slaves that he owned, he possessed, worked, sweated, bled and died on the plantation and was sometimes imprisoned? Should we reflect on what it meant to be a runaway slave? What should be reflected on? What does Emancipation mean to us, Mr. Speaker? Should we be reflecting on the rebellion?

Mr. Speaker, I'm taking in front to ask for just a few more minutes, just about two more minutes to wrap up. I recognise my time has expired. Okay. So I still have a little more time? Thank you.

But, Mr. Speaker, should we really be reflecting on the rebellion, and how we

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rebelled against “Massa”, how we burn the plantation, how we ran away, and how we sat and planned how we could escape this thing, or, Mr. Speaker, how we dreamt of becoming the owners of the same plantation that we work on? How did we plan to become an independent nation? How we dreamt of becoming the owners of this plantation. Did you all think we would have made it, boy? Do you all think we will make it? When we get this plantation, how will we become rich and instead of us working for them, one day, they will be working for us; the dreams and aspirations of a slave.

Mr. Speaker, should we reflect on our heroes, the great Julien Fédon? Should we reflect on the great Albert Marryshow, the great Eric Matthew Gairy? I will stop here because I will have to call a lot of great men, but, Mr. Speaker, I mean that’s the road map, you know, towards this discussion today. Well, what does Emancipation really mean? Should we define our nationalism and what it truly means to be a Grenadian?

Mr. Speaker, I want to leave these questions hereto be answered by us, the Grenadian people, as we, in the years to come, begin a genuine discussion towards Emancipation. Mr. Speaker, because these questions have to be answered. These questions have to be answered. We have to build a nation. The Grenadian people have chosen wisely. They’ve chosen the best amongst us to become Members of Parliament giving us the opportunity to lead and I believe, Mr. Speaker, when I sit in Cabinet and I listen to the song wisdom of our Prime Minister and our Cabinet colleges, I believe, Mr. Speaker, despite the noises that Grenada has a great opportunity to build and to rise from here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to leave these thoughts with us. I want to commend this Bill for discussion. I believe it's an important discussion we must have. This Bill, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I don't believe it has anything to do with independence. I believe the right thing should have been done with independence at the time of independence, which is to swear allegiance to our country, but it's a step in the right direction. This Bill, Mr. Speaker, this morning has everything to do with severing the umbilical cord to the monarchy, embracing our freedom as a people and marching forward with a sense of pride, honour and dignity. One nation, one people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Government's Business. I now invite the MP for St. Andrew North West.

Hon. Delma Thomas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my contribution in support of the Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025. Mr. Speaker, I rise first to express my full support for the proposed change to the oath of allegiance so that history will record that I stood firmly on the side of national identity, dignity and sovereignty.

As a representative of the people, it is only right that our highest oath reflects loyalty to Grenada and not to any foreign sovereignty. Mr. Speaker, I rise not just as a Member of Parliament, but as someone who believes that symbols matter, names matter, words matter, and where we place our allegiance must reflect who we are as people.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, this Bill replaces an oath to His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors, with the oath to Grenada, our home, our people, and our future. Mr. Speaker, this is a declaration of identity.

As we debate the Bill, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but think of other spaces in our society where the need to honour our own is just as pressing. I look forward to the day when we rename institutions like Princess Alice Hospital to honour a true Grenadian medical pioneer, such as Doctor Lawrence Gibbs, whose lifelong service and impact on healthcare in Grenada deserve national recognition. **(Applause)**

Similarly, I look forward to seeing Victoria Park renamed to reflect our sporting heritage, perhaps after a legend like Wesley "Bat Eye" Thomas, whose contribution to sports and community upliftment continues to inspire generations.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is part of a broader movement to centre Grenada, in Grenada, to reaffirm that we are capable of defining our values, shaping our identity and recognising our own heroes. When our leaders take an oath, it should serve Grenada/ that is what this Bill does. It is a step forward, deepening our independence, and so I support this amendment, which may be the beginning of many more changes that place

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Grenada and Grenadians at the heart of our public institutions and national commitment.
I thank you. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, MP for the constituency of St. Andrew North West, and I noticed the light of the MP of the Town of St. George. I now give you the floor, Honourable Member.

Hon. Peter David: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a good day when we, as a people, who we represent here, take a step in the direction of furtherance of our emancipation, independence and freedom. Mr. Speaker, it's a good day.

I am happy that we have dedicated this day. I know there were some other Bills that would generate a lot of discussion, and I have a view on them, but I'm glad that that has been put down for first reading and that we are going to focus on what makes us happy today.

Mr. Speaker, a Bill that pays tribute to all of the struggles of our ancestors, and those struggles began, Mr. Speaker, on the day that the first Africans were placed on the slave ships. Mr. Speaker, that quest has persisted up until this day. You see, emancipation, freedom and all of that, is a process that we have to engage in every single day. We did not get independence, as people like to say, we fought, and by we, I mean, all of our people throughout our history, fought.

Slaves were not granted freedom as suggested in some of the books. Slaves fought for freedom. Slaves earned their freedom through death. Fédon and other persons who were not slaves, but certainly fought for independence. So, it has been a history of constant struggle, each generation playing its role toward that emancipation, that freedom, that independence that we all seek.

Mr. Speaker, we, just as the slaves, used the tools that they had to fight for their freedom, so too, we had to use the tools that we had to gain that freedom. We have to use the tools to continue to struggle for people like Fédon, Marryshow, Gairy, Blaize, Bishop, and others who came before us with a dream of a free, united people; a free,

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united people.

February 7, 1974, was the day we received formal independence. It was the day politicians signed the document in Britain that granted us formal independence, but, Mr. Speaker, just like emancipation did not give us freedom on that day in 1834, because if you look at the post-emancipation period, our people still remained in bondage. Emancipation did not grant freedom, did not allow freedom, Mr. Speaker, the same way February 7, 1974, itself, did not give us independence. It is a process that we have to continue to fight and struggle for.

It was not the completion. It was a stage in the process of emancipation, and we have a long way to go. Future generations will continue this battle. The British Lords still remain our highest court. I mean, the British Lords, I have to go before the British Lords. We have a long way to go. The King of England still remains the Head of State, still our King. That has to change, but today we take a step, and the people we elect to serve us, imagine this, they swear allegiance to another king.

I put my “x” by a man and say you go represent me in that Parliament, and when you get to the Parliament, you put your hand on the Bible and you say, “I swear allegiance to a King in England”. Do you think there's a single Englishman or Englishwoman who would tolerate their Prime Minister putting his hand on a Bible in London to swear allegiance to Dickon Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada? Do you know any Englishman or Englishwoman who will do that? No. They will rebel well. It won't be thought of, but yet we do it, because we are still... **(Inaudible comment by a Member)** “Enslaved”, my brother says, “Colonised”, other people say, because we have not achieved, but we have made progress.

That is why I disagree with my brother when he said nobody else did anything. All of the free leaders have tried and have done, and we'll get to that momentarily. The fact is, it is a continuous struggle. Let us not go down into tribal war to decide who did more than who. We all must engage in that struggle; it is a battle.

Brothers and sisters, Members of Parliament. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I digress there. There are some questions about whether or not we have the right to do it here. Some

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people say, you know, we tried it in a referendum, it didn't work, and now we're trying to subtly get it through.

You know, quite frankly, I want to pay tribute to Doctor Alexis, Doctor Grenade and the other members of the committee. I sat with them. I had discussions with them, and they are convinced, and they convinced me, that this Parliament has the power to do what you are doing here today. I do not have the time to go into the details. Doctor Alexis and his committee can be engaged on that, but I want to say, that that committee has used the tools available to us, just as the slaves used the tools available to them and our fore parents in the 60s uses the tools available to them, Doctor Alexis and his team have used the legal tools at their disposal to get here. I want to salute members of that committee for finding it, to get us here.

You see, I have always held the view that the British played a lovely trick on us. They gave us a very divisive political system. A political system that divides us into "This Side" and "That Side", and if "That Side" does "x", "This Side" vexes and if "This Side" does "x", "That Side" vexes. That is a system we've inherited, and we've embraced it as if it means democracy.

Democracy does not mean democracy where people just fight each other. Democracy means that the people, you remember them, the people who put us here, their voices are to be heard, and then why is there this division? In my view, it is a system set up that way, and here's what has been done as the trick.

They then set up a model to tell us we must be united to change that system. So you make us divided, and then you tell us the united change system, and we persist in that. I believe that this fight, for this oath to be changed, started way back on the day of Emancipation, on the day of Independence and all those historic junctures, people have said we want freedom. We want Emancipation. We want Independence. Gairy stands high because he brought independence. What is this about? My brother is correct. It is about independence, but independence is also about emancipation. It's about all of the struggles of our people throughout the years to gain the independence that we seek, and it's about integrity.

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That is why we seem unable to change any constitutional provision. My brother said it was not attempted. It was attempted, and I want to pay tribute to the former Prime Minister, Doctor Mitchell, who boldly sought to change our constitution through a referendum. **(Applause)** What happened with that? That descended into tribal war. I remember one Parliamentarian said, at the time, "I agree with it, you know, but under that Government".

The point I'm making, brothers and sisters, when something is right, it is right. When something is right, it is wrong. We have both erred and fallen short. So today we have an opportunity to come together, let us do it. Previous Governments, previous leaders have attempted, but because of the tribal nature of the system that was bequeathed to us, we end up fighting over things that we agree on and that has penetrated the people. So you have people who are fighting simply because it does not fit the colour code.

There's a colour code you see that has been set, and that colour code, when you press that button, that colour comes up... Boom! You're against it. When things change... Boom! You agree with it. Let us all agree on doing what is right.

You see, brothers and sisters, Doctor Alexis was trained at the University of the West Indies, but more importantly, he went to Cambridge, so he knows the tricks of the British because he was trained by them, so, he has found along with his team, a way to get us here, and I want us to salute that effort, not say that, Doctor Alexis is trying to circumvent the Constitution. No. This man has fought for our Constitution. **(Applause)** He has found a way, and they have formed a way to do it using the legal tools available to us, and that is what brings us here.

Brothers and sisters, Members of Parliament, and there's no better time to do this than on the eve of Emancipation, because the truth is, it is a process begun with the proclamation of emancipation, which really didn't emancipate the slaves. The slaves remained slaves. In fact, to this day, we are feeling the impact, which is why reparations have become such a big issue.

It is an issue we need to address as a people because emancipation simply meant,

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and you know, there's an argument and Doctor Williams in his book, "Capitalism and Slavery" said that the reason why emancipation took place, and there's a good argument, is because of the economic needs of the British Empire, now, that is a whole other argument. In other words, it was not because there was any desire to give freedom to black people, but it became economically untenable for the British to support slaves, so they gave them freedom. Go feed yourself; we don't feed there anymore, but we keep you in shackles, which is where we as nations of the region stand today.

Members, as we continue on this journey toward full independence, I urge us, if there is one thing I want said at my funeral, it is that we have fought for the unity of this country. Too many times, we agree, we disagree on things because of that colour code. As a people, we need to forge ahead together, together, together to achieve independent sovereignty and all of the other things that we need for our country. Let us not let our tribal political instincts keep us from achieving that.

You know, I was speaking to a young man recently in one of my engagements, and the young man said, "You know, you talk about all the violence and all the stuff that is happening". He said, "You know what, young people need something to believe in. Something to believe in. Some cause. Some vision or hope for this country to believe in that is not there".

Too many times, I believe our politics is just transactional, just transactional for the colours, and for the tribes. I look forward to the future. I look forward to claiming what my brother Telesford said that we should be discussing: how we become a republic, how we get rid of the Privy Council, and how we deepen our democracy.

You know, I had a discussion with a group up in St. Andrew, they were saying they elect people to the Parliament, and they don't see them, and then somebody mentioned a provision that exists in California and some other states where halfway during your term people can write in for what they call a recall that gives people power.

I'm not suggesting we do that. I'm suggesting that people need to give us jobs, but people need to keep the power, and that is why we, as politicians, and we are all subject to it, need to always ensure that we account to the people. **(Applause)**

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We cannot simply tell our people to follow the scheme. We must admit that those referenda that we urge, and some people urge to vote against, would have solved a lot of these problems. **(Inaudible comment by a Member)** In those referenda, Doctor Alexis again was very passionate, very passionate during that struggle and a mistake was made—just as a mistake was made when we said back **(time bell rings)** in 1974 independence yes, under Gairy, no. Five minutes, Mr. Speaker? That the...

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Member, one minute more.

Hon. Peter David: That's the warning bell, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: One minute more granted, Honourable Member. One minute more.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, I'm just asking a procedural matter.

Mr. Speaker: I have responded.

Hon. Peter David: You have not, Mr. Speaker, but I'll conclude. I look forward, Mr. Speaker... I was just saying that we normally get a warning bell to say five more minutes, so I know, because I can't keep the clock there and talk, but anyway. As it pleases you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say this in closing. I look forward to discussions in the future. I look forward to working with members on the "Other Side". I want to suggest to Members on the "Other Side" that sometimes you need to do what's called a white paper. We could learn that from our old colonial masters, so that people have a document they can look at, and we can come back here. We can set up bipartisan committees in the House so that we work together. It helps our communities. It helps to solve some of these wars that are taking place if people see us politicians working together to solve common problems.

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I want to say again, today is a good day as we deepen our independence as we move forward, today is a good day, but it is again just another step. I want to say to the committee members, keep up the good work. Doctor Alexis, you have remained undaunted with the losses that took place in the last referenda, and you continue because you have faith.

As a Member of Parliament, I have faith that we as a people, if we come together, if we focus as the Member for St. George's South East said, on what is right, we will get it right, and our people are looking at us. Let us not divide our nation, Mr. Speaker. Let us pull it together.

Today, as we conclude this phase, I am hopeful that it will be passed. I want to simply say this, Mr. Speaker, "Thank you". Thank you for this Bill. I want to commend this Bill, Mr. Speaker, but I also want to say in closing, as a Member of Parliament, I swear allegiance to Grenada, the country that we all love so dearly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable MP, for the Town of St. George, and I sense it's the MP for St. Andrew South West.

Hon. Lennox Andrews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir. Mr. Speaker, I rise with humility, but also with pride, a sense of purpose, and a sense of achievement to give my full support to this Bill. I do share the words that today is a good day. It's a good day for all of us Grenadians, at home and abroad, because this Bill, Mr. Speaker, will make a qualitative difference in the lives of our people in how we see ourselves as Grenadians.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that as I give support to this Bill, this Bill, Mr. Speaker, represents a break with the past. It represents a change in the status quo. It is a paradigm shift in the way in which we think and see ourselves and the values that we adopt. And we portray and we inculcate in our society. It is a change in the conventional wisdom that small island states like ours cannot have real economic independence, that you must have allegiance to some foreign metropole, which we don't see, whom we don't

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know and whose relation with us has never been for our benefit.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is preparing us as Grenadians to be a new Grenadian; a different Grenadian, a Grenadian deeply rooted in the values of nationalism; a Grenadian rooted in the values of patriotism, love to one's homeland and to one's people; a Grenadian with a disposition and a readiness to give his life for cause that is just and dignified; a Grenadian who now looks at each other and see each other as one people; a Grenadian who is now prepared to work as a people to build a better Grenada for us all. That is what this Bill is preparing us to be: a different kind of Grenadian.

And I'm saying that, Mr. Speaker, because I want to go back a little bit in my early years of formation. In my early years of formation, Mr. Speaker, we heard about the Union Jack, and they used to sing God Save the Queen. It didn't mean much to any of us. We didn't know what that meant. It was no motivation to any of us, but then later on, Mr. Speaker, with the Grenada Revolution, we used to chant, "Forward March". We chanted, "Forward March". Grenadians had a vision, an end to mystery and corruption. We had a vision. Therefore, in my early years of formation, that meant something to me. That was saying to me that as a Grenadian, my vision is to end corruption, that I had a vision and to build Grenada with my soul, with good values. It made sense to me then.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you that what this Bill is seeking to do is to give us as a people a sense of national identity. It is defining us. It is saying to us who we are, Grenadians, and what we do. We must be proud of what we do, but it's also saying to us that as a people, we must work together to create a better home and a better place for all Grenadians. So we're looking inward. We're looking at ourselves. That's the value, in my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, about this Bill.

So this Bill, Mr. Speaker, gives us that strong sense of patriotism. Our allegiance is not to any other country. Our oath, our affirmation, in words, in public, is to say that my loyalty and my commitment are to my country, which I am prepared to fight for and to die for and to defend at all costs. And that's the value. That's the value of a good Grenadian, and that's what we have to teach our people and teach our children. From an early age, our children must get that sense of value, that they are important, that in them there is

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something useful, and they must use it for the betterment, not just for themselves, but for our country, so we can feel a sense of pride. We would feel happy and proud to go anywhere and to say, "I am a Grenadian". That's the value of this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is inculcated in us that we must work and produce, that we have to produce industries, that if you want to be proud, if you want to go anywhere and speak about ourselves as Grenadians, we must have industries. So our pride must lie in our industry, so our chant must be, "Industry and pride", "industry and pride", and that's what this Bill is doing.

It is pointing us to a new way of thinking, to a new way of seeing ourselves. It is pointing us to recognising that we are valuable, that we are useful, that we can do great things, that we can make others proud of us, that we can make others want to come to us, read about us, and speak about us.

What is it that defines this small nation? How come this small nation produces so many outstanding sons and daughters whose work is not just historic, but relevant? How come this small nation can produce so many sons and daughters whose work can impact the lives of people all over the world? Sons and daughters who are not just mere history, but who are relevant; they live forever.

That's the value of this Bill, and then for the first time I see, I come to this Parliament and I'm doing something really good, really good for our people because I'm saying to our people that with this Bill, we have to come to realise who we are; Grenadians, proud, productive, positive, and independent. Yes?

And, Mr. Speaker, what in fact, we are doing with this Bill is that we are continuing the work of the great leaders who came before us, those who fought against the metropole, and we say to them, we want our political independence as the basis for us achieving our economic independence, and they were brave. They were fearless. They were committed.

They were clear in their heads what they wanted for our people and for our country. They understood very well that as a people we were quite capable, intelligent and convinced enough to take charge of our country's development and to give our people a

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better life. They were clear in their heads that the relation that we had with our metropole could have never led to an improvement in the lives of the majority of our people and they went fearlessly to the metropole and in some cases many gave their lives and said to them, "We as a people can develop our own country, of course, we may need your help, but that decision, but what is good for us must come from us, must come from within".

And therefore, what we have to do, Mr. Speaker, and with this Bill, we have to continue the work of those who came before us and fought for political independence. What we have to do, Mr. Speaker, is to work towards achieving that economic independence that our people need.

Economic independence simply means that we must be able to produce the goods and services that we consume, but also, we must be able to pay for those goods and services that we don't produce, but we consume, and that's the value of this Bill. This Bill is sending that special message to our Grenadian people that our allegiance, our affirmation must be to Grenada and its development and let us all join our time, join our talent, join our treasure and work together and create a better life for our people.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I also want to give credit to the citizen for constitutional reform, Doctor Alexis and his team. I think you should stand and take a bow, Doctor Alexis. **(Applause)** You all should stand and take a bow. That's the quality of the Grenadian that we must speak about, that we produce. That's the kind of Grenadians that we need to produce, Grenadians who are Grenadians; Grenadians who believe in us Grenadians; Grenadians who share our values, our idiosyncrasies, our way of life; Grenadians who are proud to be Grenadians and Grenadians who will utilise their brain cells. **(Time bell rings)** Five more minutes, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Member, one minute more is given.

Hon. Lennox Andrews: Grenadians who would utilise their brain cells to devise and design projects, programmes, and policies all geared towards the improvement of the lives of every single Grenadian.

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Mr. Speaker, I am so happy this morning. I feel young. **(Laughter)** I feel rejuvenated. I feel motivated. I feel animated. I feel captivated. I am tantalised **(laughter)**, by having to come to this Parliament this morning and present this Bill to the Grenadian people and to say to the Grenadian people for the very first time you now have a Bill in Parliament that looks after you, that sees you and knows you, that like you and that gives you that drive, that enthusiasm, that motivation to work towards being a better Grenadian and to make Grenada a better place for all of us to live, so that we can be proud, we can feel dignified, and we can go anywhere in the world and put up we hands and say “I am a Grenadian”. That's what this Bill is about, pride, and I'm proud and I'm saying it now, proud to be Grenadian. So my allegiance, my allegiance, my oath, my verbal affirmation, my loyalty is to my homeland and my people, Grenada. Thank you very much. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable MP for St. Andrew South West. MP for St. George North East.

Hon. Ron Redhead: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and greetings to everyone gathered here. I rise to offer my full support to this Bill, and to take the opportunity to mark, just as you have done, the work by the Government of Grenada to now recognise August 1 as the official Emancipation Day in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. **(Applause)** This, I believe, is another attempt for us as a people to rise above the misrepresentation of our historical past and forge ahead with clarity on our future.

A nation that does not know or remember its past is doomed to repeat it. It reminds us Mr. Speaker similar to the fight of post-Revolution where this “hypocrisy” was only to recognise October 25, and when those who said this is not about putting anybody out there as heroes, but it is about us as Grenadian's also recognising that where there is great triumph, there were great failures of our nation, and as a nation we must seek to recognise October 19. **(Applause)**

So again, the Government of Grenada, Mr. Speaker, is demonstrating that

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although many of us may be small by age, even stature, but most importantly, we are about taking on big items that are going to build our country, and hopefully one day, as many Members have said, unite our people.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a significant step towards our focus not just to detach our historical colonial dependence, but to underscore most importantly the importance and principle of self-reliance and self-sufficiency and achieving the true potential of national freedom and independence.

The amendment to the oath, Mr. Speaker, is not just symbolic, but allows us to reflect deeply on how our society is operating even today. We are driven by hearsay. We are driven by what people tell us is right, even though we ourselves know what is right from wrong, and that reliance on an external factor to guide us is what has been causing Grenada and the rest of the Caribbean to be somewhat in this backwards state of mind and not liberate itself, believe in itself and forge ahead.

So, Mr. Speaker, we believe most importantly, that as policy makers, we must swear allegiance, not to a foreign entity, but to the people, the tantys, the mothers, the fathers, the children, those who go out in the polling stations, those who struggled for years to get access to housing, those who have struggled, Mr. Speaker, to make economic gains not just for themselves, but the entire family, and those who toil in the sun and rain to earn a living. We must swear allegiance to them because it is because of them that we believe that people are elected and the country is moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, as mentioned earlier, there is a belief strongly supported not by hearsay, but by facts, that this amendment does not require a constitutional referendum or... Sorry... Reform does not require a referendum. I think we need to make this point because, for instance, there might be some who would say otherwise. You never could tell.

So, before going down that road, we must be honest and ask the question: are there any facts to suggest the alternative, and if none exist, then we must further ask the question, then what is the argument? Mr. Speaker, honestly, I believe unity cannot be plucked from the sky, and this is an attempt to bring us together. The question is, are we

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willing to come together now?

As mentioned earlier, I want to pay homage, as I conclude, to Doctor Francis Alexis and the independent committee on Constitutional Reform led by him, and other great Grenadians, for their work.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to acknowledge the efforts of the past administration genuinely, which I believe they attempted to. But Mr. Speaker, like with all other events of the past, there is always this shackle of partisanship. The question I think we now need to ask ourselves is, how do we resolve that? We cannot come here, Mr. Speaker, just because we believe “X Government” is in office and we don't support it now, but we were supporting it prior, and so if you genuinely believe that we need to change this and we believe in the people of Grenada, I ask you to support this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, thank you, and I want to say officially, I, Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, pledge allegiance to Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and the people who occupy it. Thank you very much. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable MP for the constituency of St. George North East. Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Emmalin Pierre: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning and I want to **(cell phone ringing)** commend first of all, all those who have been part of the process of promoting, defending...

Mr. Speaker: Honourable MP, just hold, just hold please. I want to make the point that once you come into the House of Parliament, it's very procedural that you put your phone on vibrate or turn it off. When an Honourable MP is on the floor, the shrills of a phone should not be disturbing them. I just want to sound the alarm to the rest of us sitting in. Proceed, please, Honourable.

Hon. Emmalin Pierre: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I was making

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the point. I want to use this opportunity to commend all of those who have been part of the process of promoting this Bill, debating this Bill, and defending this Bill publicly. I speak specifically here of Members of the CRC headed by Doctor Francis Alexis, a former Member of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, as I sat and listened to the presenter of this Bill and a few other presentations thereafter, Mr. Speaker, certain statements would have convinced me that morning that this Bill, for some Members of this House, might just be about political expediency and not so much about nationalism and patriotism as has been presented.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you bring a Bill like this, and you begin to talk about who first is proposing change, and who did nothing in the past, and who is a hypocrite, Mr. Speaker, and who is not. Mr. Speaker, it defeats the very purpose for which this Bill is taken to this House.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to use the opportunity to share why it would be very difficult to support this process that we are going through this morning.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025, which proposes, as we all know, to change the wording within our Constitution as it relates to the Oath of Allegiance from "His Majesty King Charles" to "Grenada", quite noble, great move, Mr. Speaker, and we all remember, the New National Party Government attempted to do two occasions.

So, I want to state categorically, Mr. Speaker, we have absolutely no objection to this change. **(Applause)** We have no objection to this change. As I said before, we are not a flip-flop organisation. **(Applause)** We don't change our position based on the side of the House that we sit **(applause)**, and that is why, we have absolutely no reservation in saying that this change that is proposed that we are supportive of this change.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me hasten to add that while we support this, we have a fundamental problem with the haste and the process that this is going through. Mr. Speaker, throughout the length and breadth of this country, people are concerned.

People are concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the limited education, the limited information, and I would add, the silence from the Government tabling this Bill today. Mr.

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Speaker, as I said, we totally, absolutely support the change in the wording of the Oath of Allegiance of this country.

Mr. Speaker, after 50 years, after 50 years, we consider it a noble move. We consider the correct move, Mr. Speaker, to make this change, but I say to you, Mr. Speaker, this morning we on “This Side” cannot in good conscience support this without the support of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, therefore, in principle, we support. We don't believe that this Parliament should be an opportunity, a doorway to bypass the views and opinions, the choices of the people of this country. **(Applause)**

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, we are forced to say this morning that while we do not argue, while we do not argue, we will not present any argument here as to whether this requires a referendum or not, but we are simply saying, Mr. Speaker, that the very fact, the mere fact, that this particular item of change was brought to the people of this country before, last in 2016, and the people of this country rejected it. We are saying it is only decent **(applause)** to hear from the people what their views are on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I heard so much about democracy, so much about democracy, and I'm going to quote what was actually said about democracy. “Democracy is where...” I'm talking about this morning, Mr. Speaker, if you were following. It was said this morning. “Democracy is where the people's voices are heard”.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, we are saying based on our interaction with people, based on what we have gathered from people, we are saying we are not yet ready to make this change through the Parliament this morning. We are saying, therefore, Mr. Speaker, take this back to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Mr. Speaker, they exercised their democratic rights in 2016. Let us not deny them that opportunity this time around. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, when we brought this in 2016, we had 15 seats in this Parliament, 15 seats in this Parliament. Fifteen seats. So, as somebody said, “Why didn't we bring it before”? And another Member said, “Well, let us see who the first person to bring it is. Why did no other Prime Minister do it”? Well, Mr. Speaker, I asked the question the next

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way around. Why has no other head of state, or no other Prime Minister of this country, used the Parliament to pass this Bill? **(Applause)** Let's flip the question.

So this cannot be trivialised to who first brought it and who first went to get it passed, and if we're going to have an African expo or whatever, Mr. Speaker. It can't be trivialised. It cannot be trivialised so that in a couple of days we are going to be having a celebration, and then this is going to be symbolic for the celebration... It has to be deeper, Mr. Speaker, and deeper means bringing the people along on this important matter. **(Applause)**

So, Mr. Speaker, we, too, had more than one engagement with learned Attorney at Law, respected Doctor Francis Alexis. As a matter of fact, we had two major engagements. As a matter of fact, let me make this point. About a year ago, when Doctor Alexis and his team met with us, we gave our commitment to this even before the Government would have given their commitment to the team. So, there's no question about how we feel about this. What we are saying is that we should not use the Parliament in this current situation to bypass the feelings and views of the people on this particular matter.

So even if we have the right, what precedent are we setting, that because we have the power, because we have the right to do it, let's just do it, it doesn't matter what people think? We can't support this, Mr. Speaker. We have listened... As a matter of fact, in the last couple of weeks, we have been hearing from people on this. You know what we conclude? That even if we feel strongly about this matter, it's not about us only, and we cannot afford to ignore the people.

So all that we ask, and this was our request, is to give this some more time. That's all we ask, you know. All that we asked was to give some more time so that people can be educated, and what did we do? We went further, and we said we are prepared to join with the Government, we are prepared to join with CRC, to go out there and to promote this. **(Applause)** But we were told, "No, this is urgent. It has to be done now because the Emancipation celebration is..." Why leave the people behind, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, we offered. And one Member, Mr. Speaker, spoke about unity. Mr.

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Speaker, if you ask me, I believe in the history of this country that this is the best opportunity to unite this country, the Government and the Opposition going out there together promoting this Bill. I believe fundamentally so that this provides an excellent opportunity because what we had on two occasions...

And the Member is right, the only thing he didn't say is that the persons who were saying no at the time were no one over here. It was on "That Side" of the House. So he's very correct to say that we've been too divided on this subject, on these important matters that we glorify today.

We had two opportunities, Mr. Speaker, to do this. We have two opportunities to do this, and we are saying this morning, Mr. Speaker, that we lost two opportunities, and we are not going to go into blaming anyone except to say, here is a golden opportunity, hand in hand, Government and Opposition in every constituency, saying this is best for all of us. Let us do it together.

One member said, Mr. Speaker, this is the first time he has come to this House to do something good for the people. Well, I say this morning, we're not doing anything here for the people, unless we have the people involved in the process.

So think about it. The level of consultation that took place in 2014, Members here up and down, resources spent to consult with people, to educate people, Mr. Speaker, on top of all of this, the people said no, but why do we want to have a situation where we don't do that measure of consultation and we just come because we have the power to change it? Mr. Speaker, having listened to the people of this country, I cannot, in good conscience, join those who say that this is the best thing that they've ever done. This is the best day in Parliamentary history. I cannot say this. To say this, Mr. Speaker, I want to be convinced that the people of this country are with us on this change.

For what good would it be, Mr. Speaker, that we make this change, the King of England remains the head, what good does it do, and the people are left behind? Think about it. What good does it do that we pass this Bill, the King's representative will still come to read the Throne Speech, and the people will be left behind on such an important decision? **(Applause)**

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What good? Political optics? To make an announcement on Emancipation Day? To name a new hero? Because you stopped at Uncle Gairy, you couldn't go further. To name a new hero? What is it? What is the urgency, Mr. Speaker, that we have to do this today? Why not next week? Why not next month?

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, we cannot support the Government on this approach that leaves the people of this country behind. Let us join together. Let's go out in every constituency. It would be my pleasure to have a platform with Members of the Government on this subject matter, which we have prepared to do for the people, for one reason: the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, because, Mr. Speaker, **(time bell rings)** that's who we are most concerned about in this matter, not delegates coming for an African conference, not Emancipation Day celebration. Our concern is the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Let's do it for them, Mr. Speaker. Let's do it for them. Thank you. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition. Yes. The Honourable MP for the... No, I saw his light first, Honourable Member. MP for St. Patrick West. **(Inaudible comment by Members)**

Hon. Joseph Andall: With all due respect, I believe the Honourable...

Mr. Speaker: Just hold on, Honourable Member. Honourable MP, just turn your... Thanks. Go ahead. Proceed.

Hon. Joseph Andall: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to make my contribution on this very important Bill, which I support unreservedly.

Mr. Speaker, we say we support it. I grew up in Chantimelle, and I knew a guy named Bubut. We used to play football together. I support Bu-but... **(Laughter)** Is Bubut anyway on the "Other Side", Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, we hear talk about haste, 51 years of a system, 51 years of doing it the same way, why not next week? Why not

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next month? Why not today, Mr. Speaker? **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, while I'd be the first to admit that I don't even qualify to be a bush lawyer, I listened to Doctor Alexis listened to Mr. Ruggels Ferguson, and if there was any doubt in my mind, those were swept away by the cogent arguments put forward by the learned gentleman, on the question of whether or not we need a referendum to get this Bill passed.

Mr. Speaker, there are some elements of the Constitution that require a referendum in order for them to be passed, and there are some that do not, this particular one belonging to the latter category. I heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, saying, "We should not come to the Parliament..." or words to that effect. I wish to remind this Honourable House that even if we were to go to the root of a referendum, we have to come to the Parliament first. **(Applause)** There is no getting around it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take about 90 seconds to clarify some misconceptions about the 2016 referendum. Not all of the facts are presented. When you go to court, they ask you to speak, not just the truth, but the whole truth and nothing but the truth. **(Applause)** That 2016 referendum did contain some very good elements. One of the biggest problems, though, with the items was—to use an analogy—you show up for your wedding, and after the priest or the pastor pronounces you man and wife, and you believe you're going to your honeymoon with just your spouse, you see our cousin, nennen, coming in too. So while the Bills had some good elements, they had all sorts of riders on them that made them unpalatable to a majority of the citizens of this country.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the same people who sat in this Parliament and approved the items to be voted on in the referendum cherry-picked items to support and others not to support. Again, using an analogy, you cook a pot of food, you invite people to eat, but you're telling them, "Don't eat the pigtail, don't eat the dumplings". They themselves contributed to the failure of the effort, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the merits of the Oath of Allegiance (Amendment) Bill, I did it; probably, if I had not done it, I would not be sitting here today. I took the Oath of

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Allegiance and swore to the Queen and Her Heirs and Successors, now it's the King, Mr. Speaker. Now, some things can be done in one fell swoop, and some other things are done incrementally.

So, because we will still be left with the King, it does not mean that we should not do the other things that we can do, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)** We are talking about people who put up all kinds of barriers, who build walls to keep us out. They do not want us among them; visa restrictions, ETA, watch list, blacklist, all kinds of things, because they do not want us to be with them and of them.

So why should we, when the opportunity presents itself for us to continue the process of separation, try to hang on to it by using all kinds of frivolous excuses and arguments? Let us not forget the Windrush Generation, who went over to England to toil following World War II. They helped to take care of babies and old people. They worked in factories. They operated the trains and the buses, and at the end of the day, they were booted out, treated as lepers, Mr. Speaker. Is this what we want to be a part of, or do we want to continue the furtherance of our independence, of our national sovereignty and dignity?

Mr. Speaker, we're talking about people who refuse to this day to acknowledge the genocide of slavery. Nowadays, they talk about human trafficking and all kinds of things like that. Our fore parents were bought and sold like bread and butter, like cattle. Why should we not want to stand on our feet and separate from something that has kept us down and still continues to try to keep us down, Mr. Speaker?

They refuse to proffer a simple apology for the crime of slavery; an apology, Mr. Speaker. Why, therefore, should we continue swearing allegiance to them when they can't even say sorry for exploiting and subjugating our people, Mr. Speaker? The question of reparation. The people who suffered under the heel of the Nazis between 1939 and 1945. They were paid reparations. We hear calls being made for Russia to pay reparations to Ukraine, whenever that war comes to an end, but some people want to pretend that the crimes that were committed against us did not happen, and if they did happen, "It was my great-grandfather, so I have no responsibility".

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Mr. Speaker, they continue to benefit to this day because of the institutions that profited; the Barclays Bank and all of them. They are still in existence. The different trusts and so on. They are still in existence, and they continue to churn out profits. Yet, Mr. Speaker, they do not want to acknowledge that they owe us that. The enslavers were paid, but the victims were booted out to fend for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who does not embrace the opportunity today to try to write a historical wrong will be seen by the Grenadian people, and your action or inaction will speak loudly and clearly as to where you stand on this important matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable MP for St. Patrick West, and I now invite the MP for St. George North West to take the floor.

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I've heard throughout this entire session today, I do not know that there are many controversies related to it. While some statements were made about issues, they do appear, to me, to have so many fundamental differences that require some of the statements I've heard.

As the Member for St. George North West, this we're doing here today, it no news to me because my own personal feelings over the years, have been clearly, clearly demonstrated, my views, on this fundamental matter.

I was going back to the number of elections that I were a part of since '84. In counting, I saw nine elections from '84 to 2022. Each time, Mr. Speaker, that we had to open the Parliament and each Member had to vow allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, my throat used to hurt me. It used to hurt me. I mean, the Queen? What do I know about the Queen? But that's the law, so what do I do? I pledge. I pledge. I didn't have any feelings, but I pledged because I had to stay in the Parliament. Maybe if I didn't pledge, they may have told me I couldn't be part of... While the people of North West voted and sometimes gave me as much as 91% of the votes, I still had to pledge

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allegiance, not to them or to the country, but to my mother, the Queen.

So, clearly, I don't know how we can have a serious controversy here. I think, as the Opposition Leader mentioned, the process. Maybe we can look at this, and we have statements to make on that matter. The statement I'm going to make here is not pointed to Members personally on the Opposition Side because the truth is, I don't know where they were, and what their positions were individually in 2014 and 2016 when Doctor Alexis and his team laboured together with the Government of the day. So, I can't really throw any statements about their support or lack of it as individuals, but their party, which they have a responsibility to defend, took an unfortunate position, a very unfortunate position.

And if anything else, I thought when I heard Members on the "Other Side" praising Members of the Constitutional Committee, the citizens and the Member who led it, I believe there should be an apology not praise, apology for not accepting the fact that they laboured and gave enormous energy, that something they believed in, to them it wasn't politics, and to us, it was not politics.

I remember way back in 1968, '69, the member who had been praised for his initiative in this exercise today, took a very open controversial position when the present King, who was Prince Charles visited Barbados and he was president of the guild of undergraduates at the time, and he stood in front of the King, the Prince then, and gave a black power salute, which became very controversial at the time in Barbados, and Errol Barrow the Prime Minister then, threatened to expel him from Barbados.

So, his position in this... I know it is for him, and for people like myself who supported it then as part of the student body; this is not about politics. It's about inner self, **(applause)** your own being, your own being, Mr. Speaker. So, I'm not here throwing any picong at anybody on the "Other Side" because I can't say I know... For example, the Prime Minister, I don't know, I don't know he was a Member of the NDC at the time, I don't know, that's why I can't really say to him that, but he's the leader, so maybe he has to apologise for his party, for the position they took, then, but that's up to him, that's not something I'm requesting.

But, I want to reinforce that the Opposition Leader was correct in her statements

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relating to this whole Bill. And yes, I think the Member for St. Patrick West made the point correctly. Yes, we have to come here to Parliament. You can't go into a referendum with any policy issue and not come to the Parliament, so I don't think the Opposition Leader was saying that we should not be here, and what she was saying was that we should go further after passing it here; this should not be the last stage. I believe that's what she was trying to say, and therefore, the Member for St. Patrick West is correct.

Every Bill that we decided on then came to the Parliament. The only objection after what he said was that we cherry-picked. I don't think Doctor Alexis would be happy with this word because he was part of the entire process, what would be accepted at this time, and what makes sense.

So I would have loved to get everything passed, knowing my position, I would love to have come here and pass every single thing, but it was accepted that we have to be realistic in going forward, so we give as much as we can take. In fact, it turned out that it was felt that we asked the people too much at one time, and we know what happened. We know what happened then.

So I just want to make this point. I don't need to speak at length on this because, as I said, my position in this is clear, clear, clear. So, all I think I want to add is simply this. If we are serious about ourselves, we are serious about our children and grandchildren and their image, then we shouldn't just gloat about what we're doing here today. We should make a commitment going forward.

So, as the Leader of the Opposition said, yes, we passed this today, our allegiance to the King, but we still have the Head of State, and since it appears that we are accepting that we may have to go to a referendum, why not go to a referendum for everything? Why don't we go to a referendum for every single thing? That is what I believe we should do.

And I want to add that the Head of State should be on, and many other items, which I'm sure the citizens for the Constitutional Reform would hope that we do, and would like to see many of the other items. Imagine putting Carriacou and Petite Martinique on the passport was objected to, and the people of Carriacou and Petite

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Martinique because of the advice from the political organisation they supported—voting against it, which was, to me, sad, which to me it was so basic.

And I'm sure, as I said, I can't say the present representative was part of that because I don't know his position then, but the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique on advice... My own view is that, had the party, the political organisation called the National Democratic Congress, supported it, the people would have passed it. We would not have to be here this morning with this. **(Inaudible comments by Members)** But I'm not saying that we should not be here. I'm saying had we done this, we probably would not have been here with this.

So I'm making a fundamental point as I conclude. I can't give praise for something that I was supporting a long time ago, and was not supported at a political level, but I suggest something else over the history of the Parliamentary system in our country that we have adopted, there are so many things that clearly...

And I heard it said, and I want to make a point on this, that we should have, I think was a Member for St. Andrew South West said something like if, why it is, maybe not you, why it is that when we were passing, when we are going, when we are having the change, to bring in the independent constitution, why didn't the leadership then, I don't know if it was you, somebody said it, maybe it was the Leader of Government's Business. Yes. Why didn't we, the leaders, then, poor these people then... They grew up in the colonial period.

Even the question of getting independence was a problem, so they were so glad to have the independence itself, and you remember people were brought up in London, and they were just given a document. They were just given a document. This had nothing to do with... The people of Grenada had no say. I was a young boy at the time. They did not have a say. So I'm not going to sit here and blame them because I know what they went through. They took a lot of courage to make some of the decisions that they made, and I think we should thank them for it, not attempt to say why they didn't do it. So I just want to make this point for what it is worth.

But to conclude, Mr. Speaker, I have seen over the years, and I believe it's

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something that should come forward in a referendum because I assume that based on what was said here today, that they're going to be some initiative to go with those issues and it will pass you know why they will pass because this **(applause)** Opposition and this New National Party will not play games with what is right for the people, especially, in my case, where I'm at the twilight of my representation in this House. I don't want to go on record, my own legacy, to be opposing anything that someone later can ask, "Why did he do this"? No. I will be standing there with all of us making these changes, so I want to add one other change.

I think it's fundamentally flawed that I go to the people in an election and say, "Vote for me, this is the best party, the best coup, the best this, and give me the vote". When the election is over, I take it, I go and I sell it to another organisation. Where is the morality in this, Mr. Speaker? Where is the morality? You sell the votes of the people for 50 pieces of silver, and I must praise you for it. I say it's unconscionable. And this is not about one person, you know. This has happened over the years in this House since the Parliamentary system was in place. Standing in the same Parliament, and want to condemn the organisation that gave you birth in the House of Representatives, and standing there without going back to the people and say I seek a new mandate because I no longer want to be associated with this political organisation.

As the "Father" of this House, a designation, which I know the present Prime Minister took issue with some time ago... **(Time bell rings)** The self-appointed... Doctor Alexis is here, so I can say, me designated this title.

I offer the advice to my younger colleagues, and those who may be still here post the next election, I don't know how many of you may make it, but that's good to be the choice of the people of the country. I can't predict what they will do. I have my own estimation of what will happen, and since I would be part of that process, I could only speak on that. I have one person who most likely will not be here.

So, I offer this last advice, Mr. Speaker, as I close, that take it, this issue of changing my votes that the people give me and posing as a representative of a new organisation is fundamentally flawed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)** Give me

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some claps, nuh man. Give me some claps. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Thank you very much, Honourable MP for the constituency of St. George North West. I invite the Honourable MP for the Great South to take the floor.

Hon. Andy Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring back some perspective, Mr. Speaker, and some sense into this debate. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of the Bill before this Honourable House to amend the oath of allegiance, replacing the reference to His Majesty King Charles the Third with an allegiance to the people and State of Grenada.

This moment is not merely symbolic. It is profoundly nationalistic. It is fundamentally Caribbean, and above all, authentically Grenadian. **(Applause)** Mr. Speaker, time and time again in this House, we see that some people are in support of change once it comes from them.

Mr. Speaker, imagine I have to take the oath and I have to remember “his ears and successors”, and not heirs and successors. **(Laughter)** I want to remember Grenada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Members of the CCR and let me just correct the Leader of His Majesty’s Opposition, it’s not CRC, but it is CCR. Mr. Speaker, I want to remember the words of Robert Nesta Marley: “Emancipate yourself from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds”.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Member, I just want to interrupt you as I switch with the Deputy Chair briefly.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Madam Deputy Speaker, in the Chair.

Madam Deputy Speaker (Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen): Member for the

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South of St. George, you may continue.

Hon. Andy Williams: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. And again, I want to repeat those words because it is really profound. “Emancipate yourself from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds.” Madam Deputy Speaker, those words are very important, and I believe those words were futuristic, because I cannot comprehend, Madam Deputy Speaker, that in 2025, we are in this House debating whether we should be pledging allegiance to King Charles the Third and not Grenada.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also hear the argument about the people, but, Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask myself, who are the ones taking the oath? Who are the ones taking the oath? Is it us?

So, I want us to stop engaging in the hypocrisy, Madam Deputy Speaker, and even going back to the referendum, speaking about it was rejected when, according to the Member for St. Patrick West, that item was included among a number of different items that were not accepted by the people. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, in case there is an argument that this should be taken to a referendum or not, I want to educate the Members on the “Other Side” about our Constitution that makes reference to that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in section 39 (5) of the Constitution, it specifies that any alteration to Schedule 1 or any provision listed in Part I or Schedule 1 requires a referendum with at least two-thirds support of a public vote, after passing both Houses with the required Parliamentary majorities. Schedule 1 constitutes the master list of entrenched constitutional provisions that strictly require a referendum to change. However, Madam Deputy Speaker, Schedule 3, which contains the Oath of Allegiance, for example, that state officials swear to currently to the crown, is not listed in Schedule 1 **(applause)**, and as such, is not an entrenched provision and is not subject to the referendum requirement in section 39 (5). **(Applause)**

Madam Deputy Speaker, because Schedule 3 is excluded from the master list, amending the oath of allegiance does not legally require a public referendum. **(Applause)**

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Madam Deputy Speaker (Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen): Member for the South of St. George. I beg you to pause for a moment so that I can exchange with the Speaker of the House. Thank you.

Hon. Andy Williams: Mr. Speaker, just watching the time, that is two minutes off for the changing, so I am just making notes.

Mr. Speaker: Please proceed. Your time will be taken care of.

Sergeant-at-Arms: The Speaker, in the Chair.

Hon. Andy Williams: ...instead, the amendment can be accomplished through Parliament, specifically with a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives and a simple majority in the Senate, followed by the Governor-General's assent.

Mr. Speaker, here is the Constitution giving us the authority in Parliament to make such changes and, Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Opposition are making an argument that we should go to a referendum. The question is why? We here, in the Lower House, have the authority to make the change based on a two-thirds majority vote. So, Mr. Speaker, and I started by saying, "Emancipate ourselves from mental slavery". We have the power, Mr. Speaker, to free our minds, and the Parliament has given us the authority and the power to free our minds, Mr. Speaker, and I beg all of us here to use it.

Mr. Speaker, Grenada has long stood as a proud independent nation, rich in culture, vibrant in democracy and resilient in identity. While history has shaped our journey, our allegiance must reflect our present and point to our future.

To continue to swear allegiance to a foreign monarch, Mr. Speaker, however, ceremonially, is no longer aligned with the spirit of a sovereign people. This Bill simply makes our words catch up with our reality. Let us recall the words we teach our children in the morning, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the country for which it stands", to serve my country and to do all in my power to help develop its people. There is no mention

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of monarchy in that pledge. There is no call to serve a sovereign overseas. The pledge is to Grenada, and that is exactly where our oath of allegiance should stand.

Mr. Speaker, let's take our national anthem. The melody that moves every official ceremony declares "Hail Grenada, Land of Ours". It also says, "Ever conscious of God, Being proud of our Heritage May we with Faith and Courage, Aspire, Build, Advance". Where in these sacred lines is there any call to uphold the interest of a monarch or foreign crown? There is none. Mr. Speaker, the anthem is a call to nation building, to unity, and to service to Grenada. But this Bill is not a rejection of history, Mr. Speaker. It is a reclamation of identity. **(Applause)** It is not a break from civility. It is a bond with sovereignty. It is not anti-monarch, Mr. Speaker. It is pro-Grenada. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Parliament for St. George South, I represent a constituency that is home to educators, nurses, farmers, and entrepreneurs. People who work every day for Grenada and not for an institution thousands of miles away. They deserve a leadership that pledges to serve them and not a symbolic crown. Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a step forward, small in words but mighty in meaning. It aligns our laws with our pledge, with our anthem and with our national conscience.

So today, I proudly cast my support behind this amendment, because my allegiance, like the people, belongs first and forever to Grenada.

Mr. Speaker, let me just mention this before I close because one of the best teachers I had in university was one called Lennox Andrews; today he is Minister Lennox Andrews. And, Mr. Speaker, everyone since in school I remember the Minister wearing his tie like this, and even in Government, he is criticised for wearing his tie like this, and today we have on the same tie, this. And the reason why he wears his ties like this was to show rebellion to colonialism, Mr. Speaker, to show that as a Grenadian, he does not agree with the fact that we have to be worshipping the same folks who had us under bondage, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, today I ask the "Opposition Side" to join with "Our Side", Mr. Speaker, to support this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member for the Town of St. George said, "Today is indeed a good day". Today is a day, Mr. Speaker, when all Grenadians should feel proud and

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although we have not reached the state of being a republic, small steps matter. And the fact that we, as leaders, can take an oath to Grenada and not to the monarch, Mr. Speaker, shows that we are well on our way to not just a national independence, Mr. Speaker, but to self-independence. **(Applause)**

And I want to end by saying this is a step we are taking, Mr. Speaker, to emancipate ourselves, our children, our nation from mental slavery because we have the power to create change. Thank you very much. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, MP for the constituency of St. George South. I now invite the MP for St. Andrew North-East to take the floor.

Hon. Kate Lewis-Peters: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to make my contribution on this symbolic Bill, very significant, I would say, of changing the oath of allegiance from His King, His Heirs and Successors to the State of Grenada. And the records must show that as the Member of Parliament for St. Andrew North-East, and we as Members of the Opposition, we are not against any allegiance to the State of Grenada. As a matter of fact, we support any movement that will signify the change and would bring about national pride and sovereignty and our patriotism, it would strengthen that. We support that.

What we have a problem with, Mr. Speaker, is the process, the procedure of how this change should happen. Every time certain Bills are brought here, and I hear it's a good day for the people of Grenada. I remember it happened sometime in the past. I don't see our people acknowledging what is so good about the day, and you know why, Mr. Speaker? They are not involved in the process. **(Applause)**

Our people this morning woke up perplexed, confused, and if you're following, if you're listening, you would know that, Mr. Speaker, they were not celebrating anything today, anything about this oath, moving away from the King, His Heirs and Successors to Grenada, today.

And you know, whenever the time comes, when it is done the right way, our people

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will be in a joyous mood. They will be part of this national significance, this national pride, strengthening our patriotism because we are no longer bound by slavery and the shackles and the history that we have had, but we are pledging our allegiance to Grenada.

We are not against this, Mr. Speaker, so the day must be good when we are stating that. Our people woke up very perplexed this morning, not because of this Bill. I am not sure if they are aware that this Bill is coming today; some may, some may not, but because of other Bills that will be read for the first reading today, Mr. Speaker. They were perplexed about that, and that is the conversation that was held this morning and yesterday, that's what I saw.

But, Mr. Speaker, I heard the presenter of the Bill say that this is a first, and I know he was corrected before. This is not a first; attempts were made to move this oath already, pledging allegiance to Grenada through a referendum. Yes, Doctor Alexis, he is not there, and his team worked hard; they tried not only once, but twice, as two referendums were held. I want to refer to the Member St. George South East to the Constitution of Grenada, the Constitution of Grenada (Caribbean Court of Justice and Other Justice-Related Matters) (Amendment) Bill, 2016, Part X, Allegiance, sections 36 and 37, Schedule 3, and you would see clearly it's not a first. Okay?

Mr. Speaker, I would say to Doctor Alexis and the team who continue to work hard on our constitutional reform that just because it failed the first and second time, we should not choose the easy route. These transformational changes should involve the people of this country. It was also stated, Mr. Speaker, that it is we Members of Parliament and senior public officers who will be taking the oath, not the people, so why go to them? I am confused because we are representing... We are here on behalf of the people of this country **(applause)**, and I would say, because in principle, we all want the same thing. Let's agree together on the process and get it right, Mr. Speaker. I thank you. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable MP for St. Andrew North East. Is it the light at the back there... MP for Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the floor is yours, sir.

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Hon. Tevin Andrews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleasant, good morning to all Members. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this Bill, the amendment Bill and this amendment, Mr. Speaker, is long overdue. We are simply aligning the formal words of allegiance sworn by our public officers and officials with the spirit and soul of the Grenadian constitution, our national anthem, and our pledge of allegiance. Each of those fundamental instruments, Mr. Speaker, places Grenada, not a foreign monarch, at the centre of our national loyalty.

Let us be honest with ourselves, Mr. Speaker. Right now our Parliamentarians... My good friend, the Member for the Town of St. George, made it clear. Our Parliamentarians are required to swear loyalty to His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors, which may have made sense in 1974, Mr. Speaker, but now we are in 2025, and Grenada is a proud, independent nation with over 50 years of Independence. We fly our own flag, we sing our own anthem, and we govern our own selves.

Why should the highest oath of allegiance still be sworn to a foreign king who neither resides here nor governs here? This change doesn't move the crown or alter the structure of the Constitution. It simply brings our words in line with our values. It is a symbol, but a significant move towards completing the process of decolonisation.

Grenada is not alone, Mr. Speaker, in taking this bold step. Jamaica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are all constitutional monarchies; the oath refers to the country and not to the monarch. So what we are doing today, Mr. Speaker, isn't radical. It's reasonable, it's responsible, and it is the right thing to do.

Member for the Great South made a very good point, and I will probably join him to elaborate a little bit in bringing clarity to the legal and constitutional question because there has been some confusion, and, Mr. Speaker, I must say in some cases deliberately so.

This amendment change, Schedule 3 of the Constitution, which sets out the wording of the oath of allegiance. Schedule 3 is not listed in Schedule 1, which outlines the provision requiring a referendum. Therefore, a referendum is not legally required.

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Just to be a little bit clearer, Mr. Speaker, sections 20 and 21 (2), which require taking the oath of office, also do not fall under the referendum list. In fact, the Constitution explicitly allows us to amend those sections with a two-thirds majority in Parliament, that's the mechanism we are following, and we are obeying the letter of the law and honouring the spirit of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, to the Opposition, if you support the thing, support it. Vote for the Bill. But, Mr. Speaker, I heard Members of the Opposition say they support the change but would prefer to see it done via a referendum. Let me ask, what are they really saying? That they support Grenadians swearing loyalty to Grenada, but they are afraid to vote for it themselves? That they agree with the principle, but do not have the courage to enact it? That's what they are saying, Mr. Speaker, and it's very unfortunate, but that's not leadership; that could never be leadership. That is political cowardice, cowardice, Mr. Speaker, dressed in constitutional concerns. **(Applause)** That's what it is.

They know the law does not require a referendum. They know we have the votes to pass it right here and now, and yet they would rather delay the inevitable to push for an expensive national consultation and referendum and that we all know would take time and precious resources, not because it is necessary but because they don't want to be seen supporting the Bill with the Government. This time, Mr. Speaker, is not a time for scoring cheap political points. This is about national pride. My good friend for the Town of St. George put it very well.

So let's not pretend this is some radical constitutional overhaul. We are getting there. Neither the Queen nor the King has governed us since Independence, and we are not abolishing the monarchy because there are some people who think that is what we are doing, not yet. We are simply changing a sentence from swearing to King Charles to swearing to Grenada, that's what it is. How can anyone support in theory but be too afraid to support in practice? I just can't understand.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me back to a letter dated May 16, 2024 and, Mr. Speaker, for reference, I can circulate it if so desired. I won't get into the nitty-gritty of it, but just to say this is a letter from the New National Party, the then Opposition Leader, the Right

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Honourable Keith Mitchell, MP, and then it is basically a response to the CCR giving the Opposition's commitment to support the Bill. They highly commended the CCR and said that they will do everything in their power to support and ensure the Bill is enacted in Parliament. **(Applause)** All of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what happened. I don't know what happened, but everything seems to have changed.

So at one point you supported it and we going to ensure that we give you full support in Parliament to ensure it is enacted and we are going to do its part as a responsible Opposition and I don't know what passed, but all of a sudden you flip flopping, and hence I say this is not the time for scoring cheap political points. This is about national pride. This is about Grenada. But today is indeed a great day, as the Leader of Government's Business said, and history will remember those who supported this amendment. I am happy to be part of a team that is set to make history. **(Applause)** And I, too, join with my colleagues to commend Doctor Alexis, QC. **(Inaudible comment by Members)** KC? Hopefully, it will be the Senior Council. **(Inaudible comment by Members)** Hopefully, we will get to that point, and, of course, the entire committee.

Passing this Bill is not just a legal correction. It is a statement of identity, a moment of national maturity, and a gift to future generations of Grenadians who will know that allegiance to their country comes before all else. Mr. Speaker, I thank you. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable MP for Carriacou and Petite Martinique. I now invite the Prime Minister to take the floor.

Hon. Dickon Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Bill. I have some mixed feelings about the nature of the debate and the discourse that has happened, and so I want to start, since I am blessed to hold the Office of Prime Minister, to start first of all by thanking Doctor Alexis, the King's Council and the former Attorney General and former Member of Parliament. Mr. Ruggles Ferguson, King's Council, Doctor Grenade and the rest of the team that make up Citizens for Constitution Reform, who are to a large extent, the reason here in Parliament today.

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So I want to place on record because I have said so, and even on a call-in programme, someone challenged me on this. I never campaigned on constitutional reform. In fact, if you look at our manifesto, you'd hardly see it. One of the explicit reasons for this was the fact that, in recent times, during my lifetime, two attempts at constitutional reform were made and failed. I am not one who thinks constitutional reform is some flip and insignificant process that you come to the people with every day or every five years or frankly every generation for that matter.

And so when the Honourable Attorney General indicated to me that the CCR was making the proposal, as a very long hanging fruit and as a singular item at a minimum, our public officials from that of the Governor-General, the Deputy Governor-General, the Supervisor of Elections, the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, Members of Parliament, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, Senators, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries ought to take an oath of allegiance, which is, in a simple form, in the third schedule in the Constitution to Grenada. I indicated to the Honourable Attorney General that I did not wish to go down a route of what I am seeing here this morning, and that I will only show interest in this matter if we had the commitment from the Opposition that they would support the passage of the Bill in Parliament.

From the very onset, the CCR made the case, but I didn't need them to make the case for me because I am a lawyer myself, that this was not a provision of the Constitution that would require a referendum. And as a student of Doctor Alexis myself, and as almost every West Indian lawyer trained at the University of the West Indies over the last God knows 40 years knows, you don't do constitutional law without reading the publications of Doctor Alexis. There are provisions of our Constitution that are entrenched. There are provisions of our Constitution which are not entrenched, and there are different levels of entrenchment.

The Constitution, like any other law, is a law; we call it in law: basic law, fundamental law, supreme law. The effect is to simply say unlike other forms of law which generally can be changed by a simple majority in Parliament, you may need what is sometimes called a super majority, two-thirds, and in some instances you may need to

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go to the people with a referendum or in some instances when the Bill is first laid in Parliament, 90 days has to be passed before the second and the third reading, etcetera. etcetera.

So, Mr. Speaker, the oath of allegiance is a four-line paragraph in the third Schedule in the Constitution that every first-year law student can read and know is not entrenched. It is not a fundamental provision of the Constitution. It isn't taking about our rights, our freedoms, responsibilities, our protection from arbitrary arrest, or protection of private property. It is not altering the independence of the judiciary or altering the separation of the three arms of the state. It is merely a procedural but fundamental requirement for public officials who publicly declare that they know who they serve: the people of Grenada. The historic relic of 1974, understandably so, is that we were coming from a period of associated statehood, we were coming from a period of colonialism, we were coming from a period where the monarch reigned supreme, and the popular songs, God Save the Queen, the Union Jack, etcetera, etcetera.

So, our drafters then probably considerably did not think of every single thing. But the point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that I did not wish to come here this morning and be faced with or be privy to or witness political grandstanding rather than statesmanship and leadership over a simple issue.

And up to this week, I conveyed this to the citizens for Constitutional Reform. And I conveyed this because I was shocked that there was any sort of suggestion that the Opposition, after writing the letter, that the MP for Carriacou and Petite Martinique made referenced to and explicitly saying that, "We..." and I am quoting, "We assure the CCR that we fully endorse the said initiative to alter the Constitution of Grenada and to change the Oath of Allegiance". Narrow point. Paragraph three. "We of the Parliamentary Opposition in Grenada shall do our utmost to have the draft Act containing the said initiative passed into law by the Parliament of Grenada in due course".

If you formed the view then, that you would only do so with a referendum, that ought to have been explicitly and clearly stated and for the last year when the team did the work on this, that should have been made known to them. Why put Doctor Alexis and

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his Committee? Why put the Government and the people of Grenada through a process where you say you would support the Act in Parliament, and days before the Bill is due to be read, you come and say you want a referendum because we are leaving the people behind?

So here is my recommendation because I don't feel like I have any skill in the game. Support the Bill. Act consistently. Don't confuse yourself. Support the Bill. Vote in favour of the Bill, and I take you up on the offer for us to jointly go out in keeping with what our independent MP has said. We have seven parishes, let us call seven parish town halls, village halls, parish halls, whatever you want to call them, together with Doctor Alexis and the team from the CCR and let us... As you said, you support it. If you feel that there are people who need educating, who don't understand what it means to swear an oath of allegiance to Grenada, let us go to them and have the discussions. Let us gladly share the stage together. I don't have any difficulty with that.

We can even take a recess and agree on the dates after carnival. We will have seven events throughout the length and breadth of Grenada, and we will discuss the issue jointly. We will explain why we support this initiative, and if after that... I am clear that constitutionally and legally, once the Act passes, it doesn't need a referendum. But if, after that, you want a referendum and you think it is worth the time, the trouble and the expense, because as the MP for Carriacou and Petite Martinique rightly said, a referendum has to be paid for, then let's go and have the referendum. If the people vote against it, we respect the wishes of the people. If they vote in favour of it, we respect the wishes of the people.

I think I am on the record, because you see, Mr. Speaker, we come and we talk about statesmanship and nationalism and fighting for the people of Grenada and at every opportunity to simply be consistent and say that we support something that is good or valid, we always have to find some reasons to dance around.

So, I am speaking both as an MP, who understands that power comes from the people, and I respect the will of the people. So even if I may disagree on their position on a matter, I am happy to listen to them. I have every confidence that Grenadians will

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support an initiative that says the very people they elect, who in turn have the power to appoint people to various other public offices, will support an initiative for changing the Constitution. So I don't need to be part of any gerrymandering and grandstanding, or any of that.

Vote for the Bill because, as a matter of constitutional requirement, you cannot have a referendum for a Bill that has failed. So let us not go with a two-thirds plus one vote in Parliament. Let us go with a unanimous vote, so that when they go to the people, in the seven town hall meetings, they know from the get go all 15 of us, well, I see the former Leader of the Opposition has already called it a day apparently, voted in favour of the Bill so when we walk onto the stage in Pomme Rose R.C. School or Hillsborough or in Mac Donald College or in Clozier, the people know that at least we are not bamboozling them because all 15 of us voted in favour of the Bill which we say we support, which we say helps to promote national unity, patriotism, Grenadian pride and awakening that other people are never going to free your mind from the hundreds of years of seeking to enslave it, of reinforcing an inferiority complex, of making us to derive our African brothers and sisters, of making us to think that emancipation is not significant.

So I don't think I need to go through a largely technical presentation about the fact that section 39 of the Constitution empowers the Parliament to change the Constitution in accordance with the Constitution, and if the Constitution doesn't require a referendum and it requires a two-thirds vote in Parliament, then we are changing the law, i.e., the Constitution in accordance with the Constitution and therefore it is valid.

And that we can go back and talk about the history of oaths of allegiance, dating back to 1503 when Lords wanted their serfs to swear allegiance to them, and all the history of the changes in the oaths of allegiance coming through the British Empire, and the Revolutions, and the Kings and the Constitutional Monarchy and why we are here.

So if we support the Bill and we certainly do, Mr. Speaker, I don't need to exercise acts of power because we have it. I wasn't a card-carrying Member of the National Democratic Congress in 2016 when the referendum was held. As a citizen of Grenada and as a lawyer, I was completely shocked that our citizens were manipulated, I would

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say collectively by our leadership, into not voting for constitutional changes that were clearly designed to improve the state and the governing State of Grenada, but we have to respect the wishes of the people. And so I have never criticised or publicly commented that I was disappointed in the fact that the constitutional amendments or changes did not occur.

And as I said, and I will conclude, Mr. Speaker, I did not campaign on constitutional amendments or changes for the very reason. We are here because well-meaning, hard-working, respectful citizens consulted the Opposition, and as the Opposition said before, they consulted the Government, got their undertaking that they would support this initiative and then brought it to the Government. I asked for confirmation. I got it in writing, and we proceeded, and now you want to add an additional requirement. Fine, let us add the additional requirement.

Let us show that the Government is not always just interested in coming and passing a law because it has the power or because the people have given it the mandate. Join us. Vote for the Bill. Join us in educating our people as to why you support the Bill, and then if you insist on a referendum, I have no difficulty in giving an undertaking even though I have not consulted with my colleagues, and I hope they will not—not support me in Parliament thereafter on that reason.

We will have the referendum, and we will respect the wishes of the people. We will have the referendum on a single item. I hope when we say we're doing that, we don't have them come and say add a third and a fourth and a fifth and so on, because you probably want it on the record that you voted down a constitutional referendum when NDC is in Government because... Well, they weren't even in Opposition because you had all 15 seats in Parliament. **(Applause)**

So, Mr. Speaker, on that basis, I wish to go on record for thanking Doctor Alexis and his team. I don't know if I am permitted to say so in polite company, but there is a reason why Doctor Alexis is called "Workhouse" for his yeoman service to the Government and people of Grenada, throughout the last 40 years. **(Applause)** At the public Bar, at the private Bar, as a Member of our senior cohorts of lawyers, not just locally

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but regionally and for his persistence.

I recalled when I was a young man, I think in TAMCC, he was then Attorney General at a forum at GBSS, and maybe I was attempting to challenge him then; he probably doesn't remember, as he was challenging then Prince Charles in UWI, and we've come full circle. So I am happy to support the initiative, Mr. Speaker.

As I have said, we are a transparent Government. We are happy to take suggestions on board when they're made to us, and I hope, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that since the Deputy Speaker has not spoken as yet, she will round the debate up by saying the Opposition will vote for the Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Honourable MP for the constituency of St. Mark, I now invite you to take the floor.

Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I note that the Speaker before me has endeavoured to... How shall I say it? .. "Squeeze me in a corner", and I will not respond to this at this moment. Mr. Speaker, I just rise to make some comments on the Bill in and of itself and also to some of the comments that may have been made.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, allow me to commend Doctor Francis Alexis and the Citizens for Constitution Reform for their tenacity, for their hard work that they have demonstrated in dealing with the issues surrounding this Bill and the recommendations that they have made, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one question remains in my mind, and I did raise it in some quarters. You remove the allegiance to the monarchy, that is, the King, His Heirs and Successors, and we all agree it is symbolic because the question is, what does it change? The Governor-General... Would the Governor-General still represent the monarchy? And would everything else, the Throne Speech and everything else, reflect her commitment to the monarchy? And, how does that reflect on us in this change that we have done here?

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Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has offered something that at face value sounds very reasonable, but history has shown that sometimes offers or words or whatever can change very easily, and it has. And so it puts me in a difficult position now to say anything, not being the Leader of the Opposition, obviously, the Prime Minister is the head of Cabinet, and so he has, obviously, more powers to speak for the rest of his Cabinet. I think out of respect for what could be a genuine suggestion, it could be, but Prime Minister, we have experience, and we know what has happened on other times when the mouth turns around.

So I am going to ask your indulgence to give us the five minutes that he asked. We are probably going to need 10. I don't think five minutes will get us there because although Parliament does not respect parties, we as the Opposition have to respect our party, and so we're going to need a consultation. It does sound reasonable, but trust is an issue. Secondly, I would not want us on the Opposition to just turn it down for whatever reason we think it is. So I would beg your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, to allow us on average 10 minutes; it may go a little more, but I think the issue at hand deserves some kind of consideration so we can really convince the nation that we are serious about its business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **(Applause)**

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable MP for the constituency of St. Mark.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, may I?

Mr. Speaker: No, just hold. Just hold on, Honourable MP. You may have to meet with me privately. At this stage, I have received a request for a recess. All right. This, I would give for the sides to deliberate before we proceed to the Committee stage. But I would allow the Leader of Government's Business to close the debate. Everyone else has spoken. Close the debate, and I will have that recess thereafter. Leader of Government's Business.

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Hon. Philip Telesford: Honourable Speaker, I think... She's finished **(Inaudible comment by a Member)**, and I noticed MP for Town wanted to make a few comments before I...

Mr. Speaker: No, no, no. Any comments can take place during the recess.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Okay. All right.

Mr. Speaker: So, I was trying to accede to the request for the break. So I want to bring closure, and the comments can come during that interaction.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. Well, Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said, and I think this is the kind of Parliament that Grenada has been longing for, where we can interrogate properly Bills when they come to the Parliament, and our young sons and daughters can listen in, follow and appreciate quality debate.

I think on the cusp of our Emancipation, these are the kinds of discussions that we need to have. I hope next year we will be able to discuss even deeper matters as far as Emancipation is concerned, as we move closer and closer towards that day when we will have our desired parliamentary democracy in the fashion that is beneficial to all.

I want to simply thank the Honourable Ministers and MPs who have contributed to this debate, and I now commit the Bill for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Government's Business. Having received the request for a brief recess from "Both Sides", I now announce that this Honourable House goes into a brief recess for a period not more than 10 minutes.

House adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

House resumed at 12:27 p.m.

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Mr. Speaker: This Parliament now reconvenes.

Hon. Dickon Mitchell: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was just checking on whether the Members of the Opposition are aware.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I am going to wait for their arrival. Clerk, can you just inform them? Alright, Honourable Members, I think just about everyone is back. Sorry, I wish to inform this Honourable House that the parties have met, they've had very long deliberations and discussions and "Both Sides" have agreed to support the Bill going forward. "Both Sides" have agreed to do public education, go out to the communities and meet the people in terms of awareness as to what the Bill is all about, and the final outcome has to do with the decision of the people. If the masses outside there request a referendum, then we will eventually have to do that. But there is a joint agreement between the parties to go forward with the Bill.

I am tempted to take a lunch break now, but I think we can proceed quickly with the consent of the Members. I think we can proceed quickly. So, because of the nature of the business before us, I am going to put it to a vote, the actual lunch. My watch is 12:50. I sense we can be here for at least an hour plus longer, so it might be prudent to break for lunch. I would just ask to take it to a vote to see who feels comfortable that we should break for lunch now.

Hon. Peter David: Mr. Speaker, I would... you're asking for a comment, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, on the lunch break now, that's all.

Hon. Peter David: I am saying that we proceed to deal with the matter now.

Mr. Speaker: No, no, no. Hold, I am just taking a vote on this.

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Hon. Peter David: I vote for proceeding.

Mr. Speaker: I am taking a vote on this. So all those who would like us to proceed with the Sitting and sort of push back the lunch at the end of the Sitting. Can you indicate by a raise of hands? I want to ask for a raise of hands for us to continue the Sitting.

One, two... Wow. Help me count, Clerk. Keep your hands up. **(Inaudible comment by Members)** How many do you get? 12. All right. Honourable Members, 12 persons have voted in support of continuing, so it makes no sense to ask for the "Other Side". 12 is a majority in this House, so we will continue with the proceedings.

Honourable Members, we've had a long debate, a lot of discussions, and deliberations on the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Clerk: A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the House resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill, Clause by Clause.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

House resumed.

Mr. Speaker: This Honourable House now resumes. Honourable Members, I have to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and

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passed without amendment. Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: At this point, I am going to take the vote, and we will do a vote by division. Right?

Clerk: Honourable Dickon Mitchell?

Honourable Dickon Mitchell	– Aye
Honourable Philip Telesford	– Aye
Honourable Joseph Andall	– Aye
Honourable Lennox Andrews	– Aye
Honourable Tevin Andrews	– Aye
Honourable Dennis Cornwall	– Aye
Honourable Kerryne James	– Aye
Honourable Ron Redhead	– Aye
Honourable Delma Thomas	– Aye

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Honourable Andy Williams	– Aye
Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen	– Aye
Honourable Peter David	– Aye
Honourable Kate Lewis	– Aye
Honourable Emmalin Pierre	– Aye

(Mr. Speaker and the Clerk converse privately)

Mr. Speaker: The votes have been taken. One absent, and 14 Members of this Honourable House voted aye. **(Applause)**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to introduce for its first reading, a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

Clerk: A Bill which seeks to amend Schedule 3 to the Constitution and Schedule 1 to the Courts Order to change the Oath of Allegiance from "His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors" to "Grenada", shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the relevant Standing

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Order of the House be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all the stages at the Sitting. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Order suspended.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill is very similar to the Bill that we've just debated and therefore, adds nothing of great consequence this point in time. However, clause 3 of this Bill seeks to amend section 21 (2) in respect of the acting Governor-General taking the oath, in which, the allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, His Heirs and Successors be replaced with Grenada. Similar to what is done earlier.

Section 35 (3), in respect of the Supervisor of Elections taking the oath and section 83 (11), Mr. Speaker, in respect of Members of the Public Service Commission taking the oath. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Leader of Government's Business.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Clerk: A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance)

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(Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill, Clause by Clause. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

House in Committee.

House resumed.

Mr. Speaker: This Honourable House now resumes. Honourable Members, I have to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendment. Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the Chairman's Report be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman's Report adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: We will take the vote by division again.

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Bills: Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Clerk: Honourable Dickon Mitchell?

Honourable Dickon Mitchell	– Aye
Honourable Philip Telesford	– Aye
Honourable Joseph Andall	– Aye
Honourable Lennox Andrews	– Aye
Honourable Tevin Andrews	– Aye
Honourable Dennis Cornwall	– Aye
Honourable Kerryne James	– Aye
Honourable Ron Redhead	– Aye
Honourable Delma Thomas	– Aye
Honourable Andy Williams	– Aye
Honourable Peter David	– Aye
Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen	– Aye
Honourable Kate Lewis	– Aye
Honourable Emmalin Pierre	– Aye

(Mr. Speaker and the Clerk converse privately)

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Like the first, we have 14 voting in favour and one absentee. Honourable Members, from the numbers in front of me, it says that this House has obtained the requisite two-thirds majority for the passage of the Bill. **(Applause)**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Constitution (Oath of Allegiance) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to introduce for its first reading, a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**The Sitting of the House of Representatives
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's
on Thursday 24th July, 2025**

Bills: Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Bills: Status of Children Bill, 2025

Bills: Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Adjournment

Clerk: A Bill which seeks to amend the Marriage Act, Chapter 184, to increase the minimum age at which a person may marry from 16 years of age to 18 years of age, shortly entitled, Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to introduce for its first reading, a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Status of Children Bill, 2025.

Clerk: A Bill which seeks to provide legal certainty regarding the status of children and their parents, shortly entitled, Status of Children Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to introduce for its first reading, a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Clerk: A Bill which seeks to amend the Age of Civil Legal Responsibility Act, Chapter 4A, to vest full legal capacity in minors aged 16 years or older, shortly entitled, Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Speaker: Leader of Government's Business.

Hon. Philip Telesford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that this Honourable House be adjourned *sine die*.

Question put and agreed to.

***The Sitting of the House of Representatives
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's
on Thursday 24th July, 2025***

Adjournment

The Sitting of the House of Representatives adjourned sine die at 1:11 p.m.

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