



**SENATE**

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A SITTING OF THE SENATE  
HELD AT THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT. WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE ON  
WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2026**

**PRESENT**

Madam President

Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams

*in the Chair*

Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas

Minister for Tourism, Creative  
Economy and Culture

(Leader of Government's  
Business)

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew

Minister for Education

Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton

Parliamentary Secretary within  
the Ministry for Tourism, Creative  
Economy and Culture with  
Responsibility for Culture

Senator the Honourable Seville Francis

Parliamentary Secretary within  
the Ministry for Youth and Sports

Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph	Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas	Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)
Senator the Honourable Norland Cox	Opposition Member of the Senate (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable Dr. Myanna Charles	Opposition Member of the Senate
Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis	Member of the Senate (Labour Representative)
Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman	Member of the Senate (Business Representative)
Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair	Member of the Senate (Farmers' and Fishers' Representative)

**ABSENT**

Senator the Honourable Dwight Horsford	Opposition Member of the Senate (Excuse tendered)
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**The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:12 a.m.**

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Madam President.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OR AFFIRMATION OF A NEW SENATOR**

There was no Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Senator.

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

There were no Messages from the Governor-General.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MADAM PRESIDENT**

### **Madam President made the following announcements:**

- Madam President welcomed Senators who returned from Carriacou as well as from China.

#### **Labour Day Carriacou**

- Special mention was made of the strong Grenadian presence in Carriacou for the Labour Day activities and appreciation was expressed for everyone's attendance.

#### **Expression of thanks to Acting Clerk and Acting Assistant Clerk**

- Thanked:
  - Ms. Melvina Gulston, former Acting Clerk,
  - Ms. Janelle Palmer, former Acting Assistant Clerk, for their service during recent parliamentary sittings.
- Highlighted that, for a period, the clerkship consisted entirely of women, noting that this may have been a historic or rare occurrence.
- Emphasized the significance of women occupying high office in Grenada and praised the professionalism and competence with which the women administered parliamentary business.
- Stated that their service serves as inspiration to women and girls throughout Grenada.

#### **Welcome to the new Clerk/Thanks to former Clerk**

- Welcomed Mr. Finley Jeffrey as the new Clerk of Parliament.
- Described him as:
  - an educator, public administrator, national cultural leader and icon.
- Also indicated that formal thanks to former Clerk, Mr. Andrew Augustine would be deferred for a later occasion.

#### **Tribute to deceased Public Servant Norman Gilbert**

- Expressed condolences following the passing of Mr. Norman Gilbert of the Grenada Public Service, widely recognized as an outstanding public servant.
- His contributions, particularly in sports development, were praised.
- Sympathy was extended to his family.

#### **Death of Melva Wharwood**

- Expressed shock and sorrow over the apparent murder of Melva Wharwood, a well-known woman from Grenville, St. Andrew.
- Melva was described as:

- a familiar and popular figure in the community,
  - an informal worker who cleaned houses and ran errands,
  - someone who cared for children and vulnerable persons,
  - a source of joy and laughter for many people.
- Reflected on Melva’s vulnerability and linked her situation to issues discussed during a recent Care Workshop.
- It was mentioned that:
  - Melva had reportedly been released from a mental health institution only days before her death,
  - the suspect questioned in the case was also reportedly mentally challenged.
- Stressed that Grenada must do more regarding mental health care and support systems.
- Condolences were extended to Melva’s family and prayers offered for the repose of her soul.

### **Reflection on Suicide and Mental Health Concerns**

- Referred cautiously to reports of possibly two suicides.
- She specifically mentioned the death of 23-year-old Joshua Thomas of Lower Marli, St. Patrick, who reportedly died by hanging.
- Condolences were extended to his grieving family.
- The President called the incident a moment for national introspection and questioned whether anyone had recognized the young man’s struggles before his death.

### **A moment of silence observed.**

- Senators were asked to observe a moment of silent reflection and prayer for all persons who had passed away since the last sitting.

### **Care Workshop**

- Reported on a two-day workshop held in Grenada on April 16–17 focused on “care.”
- The workshop was sponsored by:
  - the UN Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean,
  - ParlAmericas,
  - the Grenada Parliament.
- Approximately:
  - 50–51 parliamentarians from 15 Caribbean countries attended.
- Thanked:
  - parliamentarians who attended,
  - parliamentary staff,
  - the Speaker,
  - Deputy Speaker,

- Deputy President of the Senate.
- She addressed perceptions that “care economy” issues were not a parliamentary priority and praised the strong engagement shown by Grenadian parliamentarians.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, police, and others were thanked for helping ensure the workshop’s success.
- Senators were informed that:
  - the workshop outcome document had been circulated,
  - it was posted on Parliament’s website,
  - and it contained recommendations for legislative and policy improvements.
- Special appreciation was extended to Senator Gloria Thomas for her office’s close collaboration with the UN.
- Praised Senator Thomas for her leadership and follow-up responsibilities in advancing care-related initiatives and keeping Grenada ahead regionally on such matters.

### **Apology for Absence of Senator Claudette Joseph**

- The President conveyed apologies from Senator Claudette Joseph, who was attending to state matters and expected to arrive late.

### **Tribute to Journalist Linda Straker**

- The President announced the recent passing of Linda Straker, describing her as:
  - A journalist, citizen, parent, advocate, representative of Media Workers Association
- Linda Straker was praised for:
  - Determination, conviction, commitment to truth and journalism.
- The President acknowledged that even when people disagreed with her, they respected her persistence and dedication.
- She referred to Linda Straker as a “media icon” and prayed for her peace and for continued courage in pursuing truth.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Leader of Government’s Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sittings of the Senate held at the Parliament Building, Mt. Wheldale, St. George, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 at 09:00 a.m., be taken as read.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sittings of the Senate held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 at 09:00 a.m., be confirmed.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

### **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

There were no Petitions.

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

There were no Papers and Reports to be laid.

### **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**

There were no Questions to Ministers.

### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

The under-mentioned Ministers made statements:

- ❖ Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education  
*Madam President made remarks*

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate,  
Business Representative
  - Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Member of the Senate,  
Labour Representative  
*Madam President made comments.*
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas, Minister for Social & Community  
Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)  
*Madam President made comments.*

The under-mentioned Senators made contributions:

- Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Member of the Senate, Farmers' and Fishers' Representative  
*Madam President made remarks.*
- Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate, Business Representative
  
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture  
*Madam President made remarks.*
  
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports  
*Madam President made remarks.*

### **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

There were no Personal Explanations.

### **MOTIONS**

There were no Motions.

### **BILLS**

**The Clerk read the Message from the House of Representatives.**

*“Madam President, and other Members of the Senate, the House of Representatives at its Sitting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, concurred with the amendments made by the Senate at its Sitting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 to the Bill for an Act shortly entitled, Possessory Titles (Amendment) Bill, 2026.”*

**Madam President acknowledged receipt of the message from the House of Representatives and expressed that the Senate will send thanks.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture asked that the bill on the Order Paper be rearranged so that the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill would be taken first before the Cruise Ship (Amendment) Bill.

Madam President acknowledged the change and asked the member to proceed.

## VALUE ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

### **The Bill was read a first time.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

### **Question proposed.**

### **Question put and agreed to.**

### **Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved the second reading of the Bill.

### **Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- ❖ The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Opposition Member of the Senate, Deputy President  
*Madam President made remarks and asked the Senator two questions. Senator Cox responded.*
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Member of the Senate, Labour Representative  
*Madam President made remarks.*
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas, Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)

*Madam President made remarks and adjourned the House for lunch.*

**Senate adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m.**

**Senate resumed at 2 p.m.**

Debate on the bill continued with the under-mentioned Members:

- ❖ Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate, Business Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Dr. Myanna Charles, Opposition Member of the Senate
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Member of the Senate, Farmers' and Fishers' Representative

*Madam President made remarks*

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, gave his rebuttal on the bill thanked all Senators for their contribution and commended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a second time.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

Clause 2.	Amendment to section 2 of principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 3.	Amendment to section 6 of principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 4.	Insertion of section 8A in principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 5.	Insertion of section 9A in principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 6.	Amendment of section 17 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 7.	Amendment of section 18 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 8.	Insertion of section 22A in the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 9.	Amendment of section 43 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 10.	Amendment of section 67 of the principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 11.	Savings and transitional	-	agreed to
Clause 1.	Short title and commencement	-	agreed to

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the Senate resume and that the Chair of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

The Senate resumed and the Chair of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the Whole Senate and passed without amendment.

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved that the Chair's Report be adopted.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chair's Report adopted.**

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved the third reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Senators spoke:

- ❖ Senator the Honourable Norland Cox, Opposition Member of the Senate, Deputy President
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate, Business Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Member of the Senate, Farmers' and Fishers' Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

Madam President made remarks and thanked all for their clarifications.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a third time and passed.**

Madam President thanked all for their contribution to the Bill and made general remarks.

## **CRUISE SHIP (VISITORS) LEVY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026**

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, introduced the above-mentioned Bill for first reading.

**The Bill was read a first time.**

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at that Sitting.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved the second reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke on the Bill:

- ❖ Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education  
*Madam President made comments*
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Member of the Senate, Farmers' and Fishers' Representative
- ❖ The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate, Business Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Member of the Senate, Labour Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Seville Francis, Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and Sports

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, thanked all members for support to the Bill, gave his rebuttal and commended the Bill for its second reading.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Bill was read a second time.**

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Senate to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

Clause 2.	Amendment of section 2 of principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 3.	Amendment of section 3 of principal Act	-	agreed to
Clause 1.	Short title and commencement	-	agreed to

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved that the Senate resume and that the Chair of the Committee report progress on the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

The Senate resumed and the Chair of the Committee reported that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the Whole Senate and passed without amendment.

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved that the Chair's Report be adopted.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chair's Report adopted.**

Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew, Minister for Education, moved the third reading of the Bill.

**Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a third time and passed.**

### **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

There was no Public Business.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of Government's Business, Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, moved the adjournment of the Senate ***sine die***.

### **Question proposed.**

The under-mentioned Members spoke:

- ❖ Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis, Member of the Senate, Labour Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair, Member of the Senate, Farmers' and Fishers' Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Senate, Business Representative
- ❖ Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph, Attorney General & Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs

Madam President made closing remarks and thanked all who contributed to the Sitting.

### **Question proposed.**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate adjourned *sine die* at 6:15 p.m.**

Submitted to the President for her signature in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(2) of the Revised Standing Orders of the Senate.



Finley Jeffery  
**CLERK OF PARLIAMENT**

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



Dessima Williams  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**