

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, MT, WHELDALE, ST. GEORGE'S ON
FRIDAY 21TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT

Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP	St. Patrick East - Minister for Finance Chairman
Honourable Dickon Mitchell, MP	- St. David Prime Minister & Minister for National Security, Home Affairs, Information, Disaster Management & Public Administration, Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities & Civil Aviation and Transportation
Honourable Philip A. Telesford, MP	- St. George South-East Minister for Health
Honourable Joseph Andall, MP	- St. Patrick West Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development
Honourable Lennox John Andrews, MP	- St. Andrew South West Minister for Economic Development, Planning and Co-operatives, Agriculture & Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources
Honourable Tevin Andrews, MP	- Carriacou & Petite Martinique Ministry of Carriacou, Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government
Honourable Kerryne Z. James, MP	- St. John Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy
Honourable Ron Livingston Redhead, MP	- St. George North-East Member
Honourable Delma Thomas, MP	- St. Andrew North-West

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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

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, MP

- **St. Andrew South-East**
Leader of His Majesty's Opposition

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, PC, MP, JP

- **St. George North-West**
Member

Honourable. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen,
MP

- **St. Mark**
Member

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters, MP

- **St. Andrew North-East**
Member

Honourable Peter David, MP

- **Town of St. George**
Member

ABSENT

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Melvina Gulston

- Deputy Clerk of Parliament (Ag.)

Mr. Mike Sylvester

- Permanent Secretary (Ministry of Finance)

Mr. Atkinson Cadore

- Senior Budget Officer (Ag.)

Ms. Akeeba Andrews

- Budget Officer (Ag.) (Ministry of Finance)

Mrs. Chevanne Britton-Telesford

- Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy)

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Mrs. Raquel Morgan	- Recording Secretary
Ms. Janelle Palmer	- Recording Secretary
Mr. Gayvon Mark	- Information Technology Officer (Office of the Houses of Parliament)

WELCOME

The Chairman, Honourable Dennis Cornwall, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the meeting.

PRAYERS

Honourable Delma Thomas led the meeting in prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

A Motion was moved that the Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance held at the Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Friday, 14th November, 2025, be taken as read.

Moved by Honourable Tevin Andrews and seconded by Honourable Philip Telesford.

CORRECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES

Page 4 – The second line of the second paragraph was amended by deleting the apostrophe over the word “votes” and corrected to read **“votes”**.

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Page 6 – An alignment of Vote 104 – Magistracy was corrected.

Page 8 – The fifth line of the second paragraph, the word **“she”** was introduced between the words **therefore** and **very appreciative**.

Page 9 – Second paragraph – second line, the name Kernne was corrected to read **“Kerryne”**.

Page 10 – 11 was corrected to read: Fourth paragraph second line “Line Item” was corrected to read **“line item”**.

First paragraph of Vote 128 – The spelling for Honourable Kate-Lewis Peters was corrected to read Honourable **Kate Lewis-Peters**. The initial capital letters in that sentence were corrected and made lower capitals as follows:

“Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters inquired under the line item of salary the vast difference in figures between 2025 and 2026.”

Page 13 – paragraph 5 the word **kindly** and **Ministry for** were omitted in the sentence and corrected to read:

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

MOTION FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

A Motion to confirm the Minutes held on Friday November 14, 2025, was moved by Honourable Dickon Mitchell, and seconded by Honourable Tevin Andrews.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Page 4 – Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters questioned the amount of subventions paid to nation builders to date.

The Prime Minister in his response indicated that a reply would be submitted by Monday August 24, 2026.

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Page 10 – Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters questioned the status of the completion of the swimming pool to date.

In response, Honourable Delma Thomas advised that the implementation of the project had been delayed. She further indicated that as of today's date in excess of \$1 million in local funding had been expended.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters made comments and requested the accurate expenditure on the completion of the swimming pool project be made available as soon as possible. She asked for information to confirm the year of completion whether it was 2025 or 2026.

A call was made for the recording to verify the date.

Page 13 – The Leader of His Majesty's Opposition, Honourable Emmalin Pierre requested more detailed information on the Blue Economy which was a World Bank project called UBEC.

Honourable Andy Williams agreed to provide the information requested by the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition by Wednesday August 26, 2026.

The Chairman and Minister for Finance informed the meeting that Honourable Peter David requested that he be excused from the Meeting.

The Rt. Honourable Dr. Keith Mitchell, in his comments, suggested that meetings of the Standing Committees on Finance should be held more regularly.

The Chairman in his response, reminded Members that according to the rules set out for the Finance Committee, there was allowance for two Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure annually.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR 2026**

The Minister for Finance remarked that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and approve the first Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2026, covering votes one hundred and nine (Vote 109) through one hundred and sixty four (Vote 164)

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which would enable the Government to address unforeseen expenditure, advanced developmental projects and support social and economic programmes.

The total proposed Supplementary Expenditure for 2026 amounts to **\$310,921,633.00** allocated as follows:

Recurrent Expenditure including principal repayments **\$12,050,000.00**;
Initiatives **\$45,324,742.00**;
Capital Expenditure **\$226,546,891.00**;
Acquisition of Financial Assets **\$27,000,000.00**.

The Chairman in providing a synopsis, informed the meeting of the sources of financing of the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for 2026 as follows: Grants of approximately 3.6M, Loan Financing of approximately 29.8M and Local Financing of approximately 277.5M.

The Meeting considered, Vote-by-Vote, as set out hereunder, the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year, 2026.

VOTE 109 – GRAND TOTAL - \$2,295,366.00

Halls of Justice Project - - \$2,295,366.00

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked about the project's current status, specifically whether a contractor had been selected, whether the designs had been completed, and whether it was simply at the stage of acquiring land.

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister explained that the project involved acquiring additional land adjoining the existing Mt. Wheldale site. The additional Bristol property was needed to facilitate construction of the Halls of Justice. No construction contractor was selected, and the project remained at the design stage.

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition inquired of the necessity to have the additional land acquired before construction could proceed.

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister replied in the affirmative.

Approved.

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VOTE 118 – GRAND TOTAL - \$1,200,000.00

Administration - \$1,200,000.00

Establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Regulatory Authority (ECCIRA)

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition questioned whether the Government knew of the EC\$1.2 million financial commitment when legislation concerning CBI amendments were previously debated. She indicated that concerns were raised of the financial implications.

The Chairman indicated that the matter came to light after the last Sitting.

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister provided clarity and explained that the estimated cost for Grenada's contribution was known before the Bill was brought to Parliament. It was stated that the process had been underway for some time, with extensive stakeholder engagement, led substantially by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the OECS Secretariat.

Further discussions were held.

Approved.

VOTE 120 GRAND TOTAL - \$38,350,000

Relief Support to Venezuela \$1,350,000.00

The Honourable Keith Mitchell asked for clarification on the documentation which appeared to combine a cash contribution with an arrangement involving Guyana, making it difficult to understand precisely how Grenada's contribution was structured.

The Chairman explained that the approved contribution was US\$500,000. The contribution consisted of both cash and material assistance. Under a CARICOM arrangement, US\$125,000 was paid to the Government of Guyana on Grenada's behalf.

Honourable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister explained that US\$125,000 was paid to the Government of Guyana on Grenada's behalf to facilitate purchasing of two containers of food and one container of medical supplies. Guyana was able to provide the necessary logistical and shipping capacity and undertook similar arrangements for several Caribbean countries.

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The remaining US\$375,000 was paid directly to the Venezuelans in cash, at their request. The containers sent through Guyana were identified as Grenada's contribution, including Grenada's flag and appropriate markings.

Approved.

GOG Loan to Grenada Development Bank – Growth and Resilience Opportunities Window (GROW) Facility - \$25,000,000.00

Honourable Keith Mitchell asked whether the \$25 million represented a direct cash injection from the Government of Grenada or whether the government obtained the funds through external institutions such as the World Bank or Caribbean Development Bank and whether the payment was already made to GDB.

The Chairman expressed that the \$25 million was a government contribution from the Consolidated Fund.

The Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Finance confirmed that Cabinet had approved the decision, but Parliamentary approval was required before the cash could actually be transferred to GDB. He confirmed that the funds were indeed from the Consolidated Fund from cash buffers.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters inquired on the terms and conditions of accessing the GDB loans and who qualified.

The Chairman indicated that he didn't have that information. However, asked the Ministry of Finance staff to obtain the terms and conditions from GDB and provide them to the MPs.

Approved.

Cost of Living Assistance Programme (COLA) - \$10,000,000.00

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition inquired on the use of the \$10 million.

The Chairman explained that the overall cost-of-living package approved by Government was approximately \$18 million, consisting of both cash-related assistance and measures such as tax reductions. He emphasized that the \$10 million figure should therefore not be interpreted as the total amount allocated to the programme.

Discussion ensued between Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition and the Chairman.

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Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked that the staff from Ministry of Finance provide further clarity.

The Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Finance, explained that the \$10 million specifically relates to the electricity subsidy approved by the Cabinet. Under the programme, consumers using up to 200 kilowatt-hours would receive a \$50 monthly subsidy, benefiting approximately 39,000 households from August through to December. The estimated cost was about \$9.6 million, which was rounded up to \$10 million in the Supplementary Estimates for 2026.

Approved.

Equity contribution to the Grenville Commercial Complex - \$2,000,000.00

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition questioned whether the project was merely planned or already underway, and what the government contribution would entail.

The Chairman explained that the Grenville Commercial Complex had been announced in previous budgets and was an active project.

Approved.

VOTE 126 – GRAND TOTAL - \$135,000.00

Banking Symposium - \$135,000.00

- To fund a banking symposium aimed at improving the banking sector's contribution to Grenada's domestic economy.
- The funding was described as a grant from the Development Bank of Latin America & the Caribbean (CAF) that needed to be brought into the government's financial system.

Approved.

VOTE 129 – GRAND TOTAL - \$30,751,267.00

OECS Regional Health Project - \$2,676,290.00

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- Intended to upgrade the Sauteurs Health Centre & the Intensive Care Unit.

Approved.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) - \$86,941.00

- To strengthen the oversight role of the GEF operations focal point and the GEF project portfolio in Grenada.

Approved.

Grenada Resilience for Improvement Project - \$13,050,000.00

- A total of \$13,050,000 was requested to address revised funding requirements during the financial year.
 - Components included:
 - Balthazar Bridge: \$5,000,000.
 - Soubise lot 1: \$2,100,000.
 - Soubise lot 2: \$5,500,000.
 - D & S consultant: \$200,000.
 - Staffing: \$200,000.
 - Operating expenses: \$50,000.

Approved.

OECS Data for Decision-Making Project - \$1,062,458.00

- The funding would cover additional expenditures associated with:
 - Survey of Living Conditions;
 - Household Budget Survey;
 - Labour Force Survey field operations;
 - Scholarships;
 - Organisational development;
 - NSDS activities;
 - IT/software
 - Communications and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) implementation costs.

Approved.

OECS Regional Tourism Competitiveness Project - \$2,785,836.00

- The allocation included:

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- \$205,190.00 for supervision of construction works associated with the Fort George infrastructure-development component 2, covering February–July 2026;
- \$64,247.00 for final payments following issuance of the final payment certificate; and
- \$2,516,339.00 for contractor payments for remaining works, including retention through completion of the defects liability period.

Approved.

**Community Mobilization and Empowerment Transformation Programme -
\$11,089,742.00**

- Mardigras Road final payments: \$200,214.48;
- Woodlands/Café Beau Hill/Calivigny Roads: \$1,020,909.64;
- Clarks Court Bay Road: \$601,733.36;
- Perdmontemps By-Road final payment: \$9,435.82;
- RGPF Licensing Centre: \$57,700;
- Transportation: \$15,000;
- Global operations: \$10,000;
- Outstanding payments building supplies Hubbard's - 599,379.79, and ANSA Coatings 2025 \$361,853.15, other items involving solar lights, to replace funds used for outstanding payments for 2024 & 2025, airport external beautification, no allocation for Build Back Better 2026. To replace funds used from other allocations.

Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen questioned why several listed activities, particularly additional solar lights, airport external beautification, and Build Back Better, did not have corresponding costings.

The member also asked whether the provision to replace funds used for outstanding 2024–25 payments related to the solar-light expenditure.

The Chairman sought clarification from the Minister responsible.

Honourable Andy Williams committed to provide the Opposition with a full breakdown of the amounts for each listed item by the following Wednesday.

Approved.

VOTE 130 – GRAND TOTAL - \$167,000,000.00

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Grenada Tourism Authority - Grants - \$6,000,000.00

- Requested for an additional subvention to the Grenada Tourism Authority.

Approved.

Road Infrastructure – Design Finance Build (DFB) Projects \$161,000,000.00

- Intended to settle contractual obligations according to agreed payment terms.
- The breakdown was:
 - Maurice Bishop International Airport to Westerhall Point: \$68 million;
 - Tempe to Mt. Kumar: \$21.6 million;
 - Mabouya: \$22.1 million;
 - St. Paul's to Old Westerhall Main Road: \$40.3 million;
 - Other roads: \$9 million.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters questioned whether the roads were in progress or completed.

The Chairman explained that some were in progress, while others had not yet started. The Maurice Bishop Airport to Westerhall project was specifically identified as ongoing, with the section from the airport toward somewhere in the Calliste area already completed and work was progressing satisfactorily.

Approved.

VOTE 135 – GRAND TOTAL - \$11,000,000.00

Community Self-Help Programme - \$6,000,000.00

- To implement community self-help initiatives.

Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters inquired of a specific breakdown of what the \$6 million entailed, noting that the budget description was too broad.

The Chairman acknowledged the point but reiterated that he personally did not have the information and said he would try to obtain it from the responsible Minister.

Honourable Emmalin Pierre, Leader of His Majesty's Opposition asked for a timeframe for the response.

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Honourable Kate Lewis-Peters asked for more information in terms of what was specifically targeted.

It was agreed that the information would be provided within two weeks.

Discussion ensued among members in relation to the request.

The Chairman asked the Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Finance to provide an explanation.

The Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Finance explained that the Community Self-Help Programme was an ongoing project that had been in the budget for a very long time, rather than a newly created initiative.

The Permanent Secretary committed to seeking the requested information from the relevant Ministry on the Self Help Programme.

Approved.

The WASH Programme \$5,000,000.00

- To support the completion of existing projects and advance new projects under the WASH programme implemented by Nation Builders.

Approved.

VOTE 136 – GRAND TOTAL – \$22,700,000.00

Hurricane Beryl Response - \$20,000,000.00

- Intended to continue restoration work, finalize infrastructure, rebuild homes and provide material assistance.
- Of the allocation, approximately \$7.6 million was identified for supplies and \$5.5 million for labour contracts.

Approved.

Road Rehabilitation (Carriacou) - \$2,000,000.00

- Proposed for the continued development and rehabilitation of roads and infrastructure in Carriacou.

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Approved.

Hillsborough Development Project - \$500,000.00

- To cover architectural design, structural engineering, MEP design and initial preparations for Bus Terminals, Hillsborough Town and market area in Carriacou.

Approved.

Limlair Farm Development Project - \$200,000.00

- To cover continued development including fencing, construction of pig pens, cistern for water and main office completion.

Approved.

VOTE 138 GRAND TOTAL - \$6,000,000.00

Grenada Home Improvement and Resilience Programme \$6,000,000.00

- To provide additional support for the Grenada Home Improvement and Resilience Programme.

Approved.

VOTE 140 – GRAND TOTAL - \$22,600,000.00

E-Books/ Laptops - \$3,100,000.00

- Requested to procure e-books and laptops under the Ministry of Education's Digital Learning Programme.

Approved.

Planning, Development and Technical Services \$2,000,000.00

- To support implementation of the Grenada Rising Project, particularly, fundamental literacy interventions, technical support, materials and implementation costs.

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Approved.

Tuition Assistance -\$1,500,000.00

- For eligible students pursuing tertiary education.
- The assistance would cover students attending the University of the West Indies and other approved institutions.

Approved.

Department of Human Resources First Generation Scholarships/ Scholarship Strategy - \$2,000,000.00

- The Department of Human Resources requested \$2 million to meet existing scholarship commitments and expand the school scholarship strategy.
- To accommodate approximately 75 additional students in the next semester.

Approved.

TVET Enhancement and Expansion Programme - \$1,000,000.00

- To support activities associated with establishing centres of excellence at existing locations.
- The justification was that the existing 2026 fiscal-cycle provisions were insufficient to meet construction and operational requirements, including construction activities for the remainder of 2026.

Approved.

Grenada Education Enhancement Project - \$13,000,000.00

- Existing funds had been exhausted because a major school infrastructure project was progressing ahead of schedule.
- The supplementary funding was therefore intended to meet the project's revised 2026 funding requirements.

Approved.

VOTE 164 – GRAND TOTAL - \$8,890,000.00

Food Systems Improvement Project - \$3,390,000.00

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- To strengthen Grenada's food system through improved agricultural infrastructure, expanded food-storage capacity and increased climate-resilient food production.

Approved.

Infrastructure Development – Agriculture Farm Roads - \$5,500,000.00

- To provide for the implementation of additional Agriculture Feeder Roads including:
 - Tivoli–Saab Road, St. Andrew — \$281,875.00
 - Lower Beauregard Road, St. Andrew —\$82,308
 - Guapo–Dry River — \$521,603.50
 - Mt. Hope–Springs/Hope Farm Road — \$414,810.00
 - Chantilly–Windsor — \$406,439.00
 - Pond Pechier–Bobijay Hill — \$230,487.40,
 - St. James–Bellevue, St. Andrew -\$3,365,40

Approved.

GRAND TOTAL - 310,921,633.00

TOTAL RECURRENT - \$12,050,000.00

TOTAL INITIATIVE - \$45,324,742.00

TOTAL CAPITAL - \$226,546,891.00

ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS - \$27,000,000.

A motion to approve the Supplementary Estimates 2026 was moved and agreed by the Finance Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Leader of His Majesty's Opposition made closing remarks and expressed her discomfort with the manner in which the Finance Committee Meeting was conducted. She commented that as opposition members, they attend to participate in the business of the

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country and do not appreciate being made to feel that they don't have a voice, that there was no need for their contributions, and that when questions are asked they were not entitled to do so.

The Leader of His Majesty's Opposition reiterated for the record, that the Members of the Opposition were very uncomfortable with the management of the Finance Committee meeting. She added that the Government has a responsibility to respond and provide clarity to questions pertaining to the document/s presented at the Finance Committee.

The Chairman responded to the remarks made by the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition by indicating that the meeting of the Finance Committee was serious business and must be treated accordingly.

Honourable Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen indicated for the record that she identified with the statements made by the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition.

Discussions were held on the relevance and expected responses provided to questions asked and comments made at the Finance Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Motion for the adjournment of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance was moved by Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and seconded by Honourable Kerryne James.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



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Honourable Dennis Cornwall, MP
Minister for Finance
CHAIRMAN