



HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY

IN MOTION

Issue #5

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Around Parliament >>>

Final Sitting at the Court House Building, White Chapel Road Kingstown



The Court House Building, White Chapel Road, Kingstown

The final sitting of the House of Assembly, at White Chapel Road, Kingstown was held on the 1st June 2023. This sitting welcomed Parliamentarians both past and present as we said farewell in a bitter sweet moment to a building in excess of 200 years old, and which served the legislature for several decades.

Addresses were made by the Honourable Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Leader of the Opposition Hon. Dr Godwin Friday, Member for West Kingstown, Hon. Daniel Cummings, Member for Central Kingstown, Major the Hon. St Claire Leacock, Minister of Urban Development Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys, and Physical Planning.

The sitting was closed with remarks by the Honourable Speaker of the House, Hon. Rochelle Forde.

Photographs of both present and past members were taken to mark the special occasion.

Update on the Temporary Parliament, Calliaqua



Temporary Parliament Building, Calliaqua

On Thursday 4th May an official visit to the new temporary parliament building was made with the Commissioner of Police Mr Colin John, Deputy Commissioner Frankie Joseph, Assistant Commissioner Mr Leonard Fergus, Superintendent of police Mr Trevor Bailey, Speaker of the House, Clerk and Staff of the House of Assembly.

A follow up visit was also made by the Speaker, New Clerk of The House of Assembly Mrs Deborah Alexander-Charles and staff of the House of Assembly



Opening of the New Temporary Parliament Building, Calliaqua



On July 6th 2023 we witnessed the opening of the New Temporary Parliament building where addresses were made by the Honourable Speaker Rochelle Forde, Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Ralph E Gonsalves, Honourable Camillo Gonsalves and the Clerk of Works Jarret Francis.

We were entertained by the Calliaqua Pre-School and Darron Andrews, violinist, Cultural Ambassador of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corp and members of the public were given a tour of the Parliament.

We welcome with gratitude our new and upgraded facility in which the people's work will be conducted.

THE 9TH AND 10TH SITTING OF THE 11TH SESSION AT THE NEW LOCATION, CALLIAQUA



The first meeting of the House of Assembly at its new temporary location in Calliaqua was held on 13th July 2023. The sitting commenced at 10:00 o'clock and ended at 11:55 p.m. The second sitting then commenced 15 minutes later at 12:10 a.m. and concluded at 2:15 a.m.

Appointment of Senator

A new government Senator has been appointed in the person of Ms Benarva Browne.

Ms Browne is the Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government, thereby replacing Hon. Julian Francis who resigned effective 11th July, 2023.

Retirement of the Clerk of the House of Assembly

The House of Assembly recognises that the former Clerk of the House Ms Nicole Herbert proceeds on leave from June 1st until the 22nd September 2023; thereafter, her retirement officially begins.

Ms Herbert commenced her work as a civil servant on the 1st September 1998 where she was assigned as an administrative cadet at the House of Assembly, she later became deputy clerk on the 8th November 2000 and Clerk of the House from the 1st October 2004.

Ms Herbert has given dedicated service to the House of Assembly. The members and staff of the House of Assembly wish Ms Nicole Herbert a happy and blessed retirement.



Ms Nicole Herbert

Appointment of the new Clerk of the House of Assembly

Mrs Alexander-Charles has been a member of the civil service and has served this country in the capacity of teacher for 31 years, and has also served as an outreach coordinator. Mrs Charles also holds a law degree.

Mrs Alexander-Charles is no stranger to the House of Assembly, albeit, in a different capacity, where she served as a Senator for 5 years. We welcome Mrs Debroah Alexander-Charles and wish her a successful tenure.



Mrs Debroah Alexander-Charles

OBITUARIES

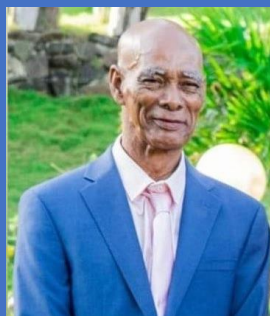


Mrs Sharon Nash

Mrs Sharon Nash commenced her career in the public service on the 27th November 1989, and enjoyed the benefit of having served in the audit department, the Statistical Office, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Central Planning Division, the Attorney General's Chambers, The Police Department and finally the House of Assembly from 3rd October 2006 where she first occupied the position of Senior Stenographer, and later, as Deputy Clerk, where she served until the date of her passing on the 13th May 2023.

The Members staff of the House of Assembly again express to her husband Gideon Nash, her children Rondeon and Jyasi, her grandchildren, relatives and friends our deepest condolences.

May she rest in eternal peace.



Mr Peter Ballantyne

Mr Peter Ballantyne died on 6th July, 2023. Mr Ballantyne served as Member for North Windward and Minister of Health over the period 1979 to 1984.

May he rest in eternal peace.



ACTS

The following Acts were passed in the House of Assembly on April 4th 2023 to July 14th 2023.

April 4th 2023

- 🏛️ National Secondary Roads Improvement Programme (Loan Authorisation), Act 2023

June 1st 2023

- 🏛️ Anti-Terrorist (Date of Commencement and Validation), Act 2023

July 13th 2023

- 🏛️ Finance Act 2023
- 🏛️ Finance Administration (Amendment) Act, 2023
- 🏛️ South Rivers Health Center Project (Loan Authorisation) Act 2023
- 🏛️ The National Emergency and Disaster Management (Amendment) Act 2023

Select Committee: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

July 14th 2023

- 🏛️ Belle Vue Cultural Artistic Hub and Market Project (Loan Authorisation) Act, 2023
- 🏛️ Eastern Caribbean Telecommunication Authority Act 2023
- 🏛️ Jennifer Browne Pension (Declaration) Act 2023
- 🏛️ Susan Jackson-Abraham Pension (Declaration) Act 2023
- 🏛️ Stephanie Browne Pension Act 2023

Parliamentary Publication Committee

We are pleased to announce the names of members of the recently appointed Parliamentary Publication Committee, who will commence the herculean task of documenting the multifaceted history of the Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The members are Dr. Adrian Fraser, Honourable Rene Baptiste, Mr Cecil Blazer Williams, Mr Joseph “Burns” Bonadie, Ms Clare Keizer, Mrs Michelle King-Campbell, the Clerk and the Speaker of the House. Thank you for accepting this task.



Dr. Adrian Fraser



Ms Rene M. Baptiste (CMG)



Joseph “Burns” Bonadie



Ms Clare Keizer



Mr Cecil Blazer Williams



Mrs Michelle King Campbell

Youth Parliament Training Session



Madam Speaker and students from the SVGCC

The House of Assembly continues its outreach programme with its annual youth parliament session. On Thursday 30th March 2023 the first training session was held where we saw students from the various divisions of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.