



# HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN MOTION

Issue #4

March 31<sup>st</sup>  
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## About Parliament >>>

### Update on the Temporary Parliament Located at Calliaqua



As the temporary parliament building nears completion, an official visit to the site was made on 23rd March, 2023 by the Speaker and staff of the House of Assembly, Director Sean Rose Agency for Public Information Mrs. Shari Dougan from the Ministry of Urban Development and Mr. Alistair Browne Ministry of Transport and Works. The Speaker and her team were given a guided tour with relevant updates. The expressions of smiles and general satisfaction with the progress of the works were evident for all to see as the House of Assembly prepares to move into its new temporary home.

## OBITUARY



**Mr Dennie Wilson**

Mr Dennie Wilson died on 7th April 2023. Mr Wilson served as Government Senator, Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the House of Assembly over the period 1981 to 1984.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, marked the opening of the third session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament where the Governor General delivered her Throne Speech and the Minister of Finance presented his Budget Address. Debates on the Appropriation Bill commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 from Honourable Members of the House and on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 the Appropriation Bill, 2023 was passed.



## ACTS

The following Acts were passed in the House of Assembly on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 to March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

🇬🇪 Appropriation Act, 2023

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

🇬🇪 Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (Amendment), Act 2023

🇬🇪 Civil Aviation (Amendment), Act 2023

🇬🇪 Conrad Simon Pension (Declaration), Act 2023

March 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

🇬🇪 Anti-Terrorist Financing, Act 2023

🇬🇪 Insurance (Amendment), Act 2023

🇬🇪 Co-operative Societies (Amendment), Act 2023

## School Visits >>>

### House of Assembly reaches Bequia

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Speaker Forde and the House of Assembly Outreach team travelled and met with teachers and students of the Bequia SDA Secondary and the Bequia Community High Schools respectively. The team was met with hospitality from the Principals, staff and the students of both schools. Students took full advantage of the opportunity to interact with Speaker Forde and posed a series of questions which led to enthusiastic and exciting exchanges. The students expressed their appreciation for Speaker Forde's delivery on the subject matter of government and the functioning of Parliament which ignited and heightened their interests in the topic.

While en route to speak with the students at the Bequia Community High School, Speaker Forde received a pleasant surprise in the form of an impromptu group hug from students of the Bequia Primary School. This delighted the Speaker and the entire team as they experienced the innocence of childhood affection in full bloom.



**Bequia Anglican Primary**



**Bequia SDA Secondary**



**Bequia Community High Secondary**

### Parliament visits J.P Eustace Memorial Secondary



**Honourable Rochelle Forde and students from the J.P. Eustace Secondary School.**

The Outreach team continued its programme with a visit to the J.P. Eustace Secondary School in Edinboro on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The first stop was a call on the Principal and staff, from whom a warm welcome was extended to Speaker Forde and her team. As the session moved to interactions with the students of the upper school, the students were often surprised and very appreciative of Speaker Forde's knowledge of the issues and current music trends.

As the session turned to the main focus of the visit, the students displayed a keen interest with lively relevant questions as it relates to the functions of government and the composition of the Parliament. Students were especially interested to learn of the functions of the office of the Speaker; The atmosphere was filled both with levity and appreciation as the students received the information; thereafter there were several impromptu applications for future posts at the House of Assembly. After a heartfelt vote of thanks followed by countless photographs, videos and additional questions, the Speaker and her team expressed gratitude and made their departure.

## The George Stephens Sr Secondary School



The 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 was the turn of the George Stephens Sr. Secondary school, as the outreach programme made it first stop. After interactions by the team from the House of Assembly with the principal and staff, Speaker Forde and her team were introduced to the students who received them with exuberance and a showcasing of the school's abundance of talent in song and original poems. After the exuberant welcome, it was no surprise that the interactive session on governance and parliamentary procedures, was met with thought provoking questions and healthy robust, respectful discussions to the absolute delight of the Speaker and her visiting team

*Please see below an original poem by a teacher of the GSSSS*

### EDUCATION, MY ESCAPE FROM POVERTY

I want to escape this life of poverty  
I don't want it to be my reality,  
These clothes that I'm wearing  
They're tattered and worn  
I often feel less than others  
Because of the scorn  
No money to buy the things that I need  
I sometimes beg for my daily feed.

My mother she struggles, working every day of the week  
But in spite of the hustle still can't make ends meet.  
I must escape third life of poverty.  
It must not be my reality  
I'm tired of hunger  
I'm tired of these feelings  
That keeps playing on my mind  
Like my life has no meaning  
And I'm left behind.

I must escape this life of poverty  
It must not be my reality  
EDUCATION EDUCATION is my escape plan  
I want no distraction from neither man or woman  
Education, Education at my school is free  
Education, Education I have the opportunity

I don't want to wait in line, or pay a school fee  
So, I will follow my plan, I will do so diligently  
I will do all that I can, and make use of this opportunity.

I will escape this life of Poverty!  
I will not be my reality!  
Education my escape from poverty.

Written by Fannie Ballantyne

Permission has been granted by the author for the publication of this piece.

## The New Adelphi Secondary School



A packed programme awaited Madam Speaker and her team from the New Adelphi Secondary School on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. After conversations with the Principal and teachers, Speaker Forde and her team were escorted to their places in the packed assembly hall of bright faces. The programme commenced with melodious steel pan performances, followed by a prayer and a harmonious and beautifully executed rendition by four (4) junior students of Miley Cyrus' song The Climb.

The session was well received, with questions from the students on a plethora of associated subject matters, which demonstrated both the student's thirst for knowledge and their interest in what was being presented. Speaker Forde and the team left the New Adelphi Secondary School fortified physically, emotionally and spiritually.

## Visit to Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre



### **The Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre meets Madam Speaker and her team along with Director of NIS Mr. Stewart Haynes**

On Saturday 25th February, 2023 as Speaker Rochelle Forde and her team from the House of Assembly continued their outreach programme, it was the turn of the boys at the Liberty Lodge Training Centre. The visit included a partnership in the outreach programme, where the National Insurance Services, represented by its Director Stewart Haynes- a welcomed surprise addition to the team- accepted the Speaker's invitation to collaborate without hesitation. The Speaker and team again express heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Stewart Haynes, for his time and strong message to the boys and young men.

The team was met with great enthusiasm and the atmosphere was filled with the excitement of the boys and young men from the moment the vehicles parked. The session saw energized and interactive presentations from the Speaker, Director Haynes, and for the very first time on these visits, the Clerk of the House of Assembly Nicole Herbert. The boys and young men were engaged and engaging from start to finish, and were also eager to share with their visitors their wealth of knowledge - ranging from biblical teachings to career choices. The team also had the pleasure of an impromptu art exhibition showcasing some of their talent. The entire delegation commends the administrators at the training facility for their work and dedication. This opportunity is taken to again celebrate the boys and young men at the home. It was a most enriching experience for the visiting delegation and our new friends at the training facility expressed gratitude for the visit and made only a small request- that the team should come again and encourage more persons to visit as well!

## No.23 Rangers Unit Investiture and Renewal Ceremony



As an era in the history of the Parliament closes with the transitioning of the home of the House of Assembly, the No.23 Ranger Girl Guides company took the opportunity to leave its mark in the parliamentary annals of St Vincent and the Grenadines. The first ever investiture ceremony was held at the House of Assembly Chamber in Kingstown, where the girls made their promise or reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and ethos of the Girl Guides movement in a fitting ceremony filled with smiles, laughter, and an evident sense of service to country. Honourable Speaker of the House of Assembly extends congratulations and best wishes to all!

### **Medical Professionals and Members from the St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force.**

With a slight change in schedule, The Speaker took the opportunity to make a courtesy call on the members stationed the Port Elizabeth Police Station, Barrouallie Police Station, the medical professionals at the Port Elizabeth Hospital and Layou Health Centre.

