

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2023 - 2024

No. 3

WEDNESDAY, 29th NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,
M.B.E., J.P. - PRESIDENT
Senator Ms. K.J. BELL, J.P. – VICE PRESIDENT
Senator R.J. WIGHT
Senator the Hon. O.K. DARRELL, J.P.
Senator Ms. A.J.L. HODGSON
Senator Ms. L.K. SIMMONS
Senator Mrs. R.S. TUCKER
Senator D.V. ROBINSON, J.P.
Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCOUTO, J.P.

ABSENT:

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. DILL
Senator L.L. ROBINSON, J.P.

10:03a.m.

On the motion of Senator K.J. Bell, the minutes of the meetings of Friday, 3rd November and Wednesday, 15th November 2023 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:32a.m.

Senator the Hon. the President announced that Senator Leslie Robinson and Senator Rev. Dr. Emilygail Dill will be absent from today's meeting.

10:03a.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell presented for the information of Senate the "Office of Project Management and Procurement Annual Report for the Year 2022".

10:04a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate the "Annual Report of the Registry General for the Year ended 31 December 2022".

10:04a.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson presented for the information of Senate the "Bermuda Health Council Combined Annual Report for the Fiscal Years ended 2021 and 2022".

Notices of Motion

10:04a.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson, on behalf of Senator L.L. Robinson, presented for the consideration of Senate the Proposed 'Agreement for Sale between Gardine Izetta Gibbons and the Government of Bermuda regarding all that southernmost strip of land to be subdivided from property situate at 18 Secretary Lane, St George's GE 05', in accordance with the provisions of Section 2(1)(a) of the Acquisition of Land Act 1970; and gave notice that at the next day of meeting she would move that the said Sale Agreement be approved.

Ministerial Statements

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister for Youth, Social Development and Seniors, made a Ministerial Statement on "Nurturing Our Nation: Annual Parenting Expo".

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell, as Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, made a Ministerial Statement on "Office of Project Management and Procurement Annual Report 2022".

10:18a.m.

The following Public Bill was brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given its First Reading in the Senate:-

"Anti-Doping in Sport Act 2023".

Question Period

10:18a.m.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Nurturing Our Nation: Annual Parenting Expo”.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second question.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a third question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question to her second question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

Senator D.V. Robinson asked a question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a question to Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell on his Ministerial Statement entitled “Office of Project Management and Procurement Annual Report 2022”.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question.

Senator D.V. Robinson asked a question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell noted he would endeavour to get the answers and revert back.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell to provide Oral responses to the following

Parliamentary Questions from Senator D.V. Robinson:-

*Q1. With reference to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) declaring Bermuda to be non-compliant, would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to the date on which he was first made aware of WADA’s required legislative amendments and deadline required to keep Bermuda compliant with the international code of conduct?

*Q2. Would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to the dates of all reminders sent to himself or to the Ministry by WADA and the Bermuda Sport Anti-Doping Authority about the approaching deadline, prior to it expiring?

*Q3. Would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to what were the factors leading to multiple WADA deadlines being missed?

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell declined to answer the Parliamentary Questions from Senator D.V. Robinson citing the provisions of Standing Orders 65(4)(d) and 65(4)(k). He noted that Senate will be debating the “Anti-Doping in Sport Act 2023” later in the meeting.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell to provide Oral responses to the following Parliamentary Questions from Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto:-

*Q1. Would the Honourable Minister please provide the Senate with a list of all Cyber-attacks or hacks on Government of Bermuda IT systems over the last three (3) years prior to 30th September 2023, with dates and details on the nature of the attack?

*Q2. With respect to each attack cited in Question 1, would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to whether any ransom was requested, the amount of the ransom, and whether any ransom was paid or not?

*Q3. With respect to each attack cited Question 1, would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to what specific actions were taken by Government to improve cybersecurity?

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell declined to answer the Parliamentary Questions from Senator

Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto citing the provisions of Standing Order 65(4)(f).

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

Madam President

On behalf of Senator L.L. Robinson, Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell to provide Oral responses to the following Parliamentary Questions from Senator R.S. Tucker:-

*Q1. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to what area or section within the Immigration Department is responsible for monitoring and investigating hotline complaints?

*Q2. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to how many justified and unjustified Immigration complaints were received via the confidential immigration hotline for each year from 2019 to 2022?

*Q3. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to what is the general process and investigation time allocated for a matter if a complaint is made via the immigration hotline?

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question to Q1.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question to Q2.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied to the questions asked earlier in the proceedings in relation to his Ministerial Statement.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Orders of the Day

11:00a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Marva Jean O'Brien, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Ms. Jane Brett, Policy Analyst to the Ministry and Ms. Deborah Hunter, CEO of BSADA, in the Chamber.

11:02a.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled "Anti-Doping in Sport Act 2023", which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Anti-Doping in Sport Act 2023" be now read the second time.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell spoke on the Bill.

11:09a.m. - Senator D.V. Robinson

11:10a.m. - Senator R.J. Wight

11:11a.m. - Senator K.J. Bell

11:17a.m. - Senator L.K. Simmons

11:18a.m. - Senator O.K. Darrell replied.

11:26a.m. - Senator R.S. Tucker

11:29a.m. - Senator O.K. Darrell replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill —which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the Bill be now read a third time — which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the Bill entitled the “Anti-Doping in Sport Act 2023” do now pass — which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before Her Excellency the Governor for Her Excellency’s assent.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

11:33a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered condolences to the family of Minister Michael Weeks, MP, on the passing of her mother Mrs. Lois Weeks. She also extended condolences to the family of Ms. Sasha Swan.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson congratulated Ms. Tierrai Tull, the 2024 Rhodes Scholar for Bermuda. Senator Hodgson congratulated Marsh McLennan on providing wonderful overseas opportunities for Bermudians.

Senator R.S. Tucker offered condolences to the families of Mrs. Lois Weeks, as well as the family of the late Ms. Sasha Swan, Mr. Alex Cottingham, Ms. Crystal Lightbourne, Ms. Monique Johansson and Mr. George Scott Smith. Senator Tucker congratulated Jessica Lewis on winning gold at the recent Para Pan Am Games. She also congratulated all the nominees of the 2023 Bermuda Educators Network Award.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto associated himself with the congratulations extended to Ms. Tierrai Tull, the 2024 Rhodes Scholar.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell offered condolences to the family of Mr. Keevin Peets. He also associated himself with the condolences extended to the family of Mrs. Lois Weeks. He also congratulated the Bermuda Cricket Board on their yearly awards, especially Mr. Malachi Jones on winning the Icon Award. Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell congratulated Jessica Lewis and Yushae DeSilva-Andrade on their medal wins at the Para Pan Am Games. He also extended congratulations to the Bermuda Tourism Authority on the Bermuda Tourism Summit event that was held on November 28. He offered congratulations to the Friends of St. Peter’s Church on getting the clock

fixed with the help of the Department of Culture, as it has been a longtime endeavour.

Madam President associated herself with the condolences extended to Minister Weeks and his entire family on the passing of Mrs. Lois Weeks. She also associated the whole Senate on congratulating the Para Pan Am medal winners and Bermuda’s cricket players.

11:50a.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 13th December 2023 – which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the Senate do now adjourn – which was agreed to.

11:50a.m. - Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

11:57a.m. - Senator R.J. Wight

11:59a.m.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 13th December 2023

- (1) Consideration of the Proposed ‘Agreement for Sale between Gardine Izetta Gibbons and the Government of Bermuda’