

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2022 - 2023

No. 11

WEDNESDAY, 24th MAY 2023

PRESENT:

Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,
M.B.E., J.P. - PRESIDENT
Senator R.J. WIGHT
Senator the Hon. O.K. DARRELL, J.P.
Senator Ms. A.J.L. HODGSON
Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. DILL
Senator Ms. L.L. ROBINSON, J.P.
Senator Ms. L.K. SIMMONS
Senator B.A. SMITH, J.P.
Senator Mrs. R.S. TUCKER
Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCOUTO, J.P.

ABSENT:

Senator Ms. K.J. BELL, J.P. – VICE PRESIDENT

**[This meeting of Senate was conducted in
the Senate Chamber at Veritas Place.]**

10:01a.m.

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, May 17th 2023 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:02a.m.

Senator the Hon. the President announced that Senator K.J. Bell sent her regrets for not being able to attend today's meeting.

Notices of Motion

10:02a.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell, on behalf of Senator A.J.L. Hodgson, presented for the consideration of Senate the draft Regulations entitled the "Government Fees Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023", proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance under the provisions of section 2 of the Government Fees Act 1965;

- and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting she would move that the said draft Regulations be approved.

10:03a.m.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill presented for the consideration of Senate the draft Rules entitled the "Rules of the Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2023", proposed to be made by the Chief Justice in exercise of the power conferred by section 62 of the Supreme Court Act 1905;

- and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting she would move that the said draft Rules be approved.

Ministerial Statements

10:04a.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell, as Minister of Youth, Culture and Sport, made a Ministerial Statement on "2023 Bermuda Day Parade: A Bermudian Renaissance".

10:12a.m.

Senator L.L. Robinson, as Junior Minister of Public Works, made a Ministerial Statement on "Sustainable Water Management for Bermuda's Future."

10:26a.m.

Senator L.L. Robinson, as Junior Minister of Economy and Labour, made a Ministerial Statement on "Bermuda's 4th Quarter Economic Performance".

10:31a.m.

Senator L.L. Robinson, as Junior Minister of Economy and Labour, made a Ministerial Statement on “Expansion of Summer Employment Programmes”.

10:38a.m

The following Public Bills were brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given their First Reading in the Senate:-

The “Digital Asset Business Amendment Act 2023”; and

The “Insurance Amendment Act 2023”.

10:38a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Stephen Symons, Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Public Works, in the Chamber.

Question Period

10:38a.m.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question to Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell on his Ministerial Statement entitled “2023 Bermuda Day Parade: A Bermudian Renaissance”.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

10:44a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Lt. Col. the Hon. David Burch, JP, MP, Minister of Public Works, in the Public Gallery.

10:44a.n. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a question to Senator L.L. Robinson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Sustainable Water Management for Bermuda’s Future”.

10:48a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight asked a question.

10:48a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a question.

10:50a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question.

10:52a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

10:58a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a second question.

10:59a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second question.

11:00a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:01a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

11:01a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a third question.

11:02a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:03a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

11:03a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:03a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the following officers from the Bermuda Monetary Authority, Mr. Ifor Hughes, Mr. Marcello Ramella and Mr. Christos Efthynopolous, in the Chamber.

11:04a.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a question to Senator L.L. Robinson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Bermuda’s 4th Quarter Economic Performance”.

11:06a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:07a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker

11:07a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith

11:10a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson informed Madam President she would endeavour to get the answers.

11:12a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked the answers be given orally at the next day of meeting so that might be in the public domain, which Senator L.L. Robinson agreed to.

11:14a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question to Senator L.L. Robinson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Department of Workforce Development: Expansion of Summer Employment Programmes”.

11:14a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a second question.

11:14a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a question.

11:15a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a second question.

11:17a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith asked a third question.

11:17a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:20a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

11:20a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a third question.

11:21a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:24a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker reasked her second question.

11:24a.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

11:26a.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

Orders of the Day

11:27a.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Digital Asset Business Amendment Act 2023” – which was agreed to.

11:27a.m

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Digital Asset Business Amendment Act 2023” be now read the second time.

Senator Hodgson spoke on the Bill.

11:38a.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

11:43a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:45a.m. – Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.
The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill – which was agreed to.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Bill be now read a third time – which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Bill entitled the “Digital Asset Business Amendment 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.

11:47a.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Insurance Amendment Act 2023” – which was agreed to.

11:47a.m

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Insurance Amendment Act 2023” be now read the second time.

Senator Hodgson spoke on the Bill.

11:58a.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

11:59a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:00p.m. – Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill – which was agreed to.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Bill be now read a third time – which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Bill entitled the “Insurance Amendment 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.

12:01p.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the draft Regulations entitled the “Government Fees Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023”, notice of which was given earlier in the meeting -- which was agreed to.

12:02p.m.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the Senate do now take under consideration the draft Regulations entitled the “Government Fees Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023” -- which was agreed to.

Senator Hodgson spoke on the Regulations.

12:04p.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

12:04p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:05p.m. – Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson moved that the said draft Regulations be approved and that the following message be sent to Her Excellency the Governor:

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The Senate, having had under consideration the draft Regulations entitled “Government Fees Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023”

proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 2 of the Government Fees Act 1965, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Regulations.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

12:05p.m.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill moved that Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the draft Rules entitled the “Rules of the Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2023” notice of which was given earlier in the meeting -- which was agreed to.

12:06p.m.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill moved that the Senate do now take under consideration of the draft Rules entitled the “Rules of the Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2023” -- which was agreed to.

Senator Dill spoke on the Rules.

12:16p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Gina Hurst-Maybury, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Reform, in the Chamber.

12:16p.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

12:18p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:19p.m. – Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill replied.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill moved that the said draft Rules be approved and that the following message be sent to Her Excellency the Governor:

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The Senate, having had under consideration the draft Rules entitled the “Rules of the Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2023”, proposed to be made by the Chief Justice in

exercise of the power conferred by section 62 of the Supreme Court Act 1905, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Rules.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

12:20p.m.

Senator L.L. Robinson moved that the Senate do now take under consideration the following Motion:

“Be it resolved that the Senate, in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the Base Lands Development Act 1996, approves the dissolution of the Bermuda Land Development Company (BLDC) so that it may be amalgamated with the West End Development Corporation (WEDCO)” -- which was agreed to.

12:34p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Lt. Col. the Hon. David Burch, JP, MP, Minister of Public Works, in the Chamber.

12:35p.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

12:37p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:39p.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator L.L. Robinson moved that the Motion be approved -- which was agreed to.

12:43p.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved the Senate do now adjourn for lunch and resume at 2:00p.m -- which was agreed to.

2:01p.m.

Senate resumed.

Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches

2:01p.m.

Senator B.A. Smith offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Chris Weatherhill. Senator Smith offered congratulations to Bermuda National Athletics

Association on hosting the USATF track and field event over the weekend. He also congratulated the winners of the Bermuda National Swimming Championship and the athletes announced by the Bermuda Olympic Association who will compete in the CAC Games this summer in El Salvador.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill offered condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Alducie Zuill who passed in her 103rd year. She also extended condolences to the families of Mrs. Frances Baker and Mrs. Cora Scott White. Senator Dill congratulated the Department of Education on a successful ‘Spring into the Arts’ programme and the performances that have taken place after a 3 year hiatus. She also congratulated Berkeley Education Society on celebrating their 125th year as well as the recent celebration of 2 former principals including former Senator Mrs. Michelle Simmons.

Senator L.K. Simmons congratulated PHC majorette and drum corps for continuing to highlight this tradition and keeping it alive and well in Bermuda.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto offered condolences to the families of the late Mrs. Catherine Ziepniewski and Ms. Lily Mello.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell associated himself with the congratulations extended to the winners of the track and field event and the National Swimming Championships. He also associated with the congratulations offered to the recent Berkeley Arts Showcase and the PHC majorettes and drum corps. Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell congratulated Mr. Troy King for winning the Outstanding Teacher Award. He thanked Mr. Scott Barnes, outgoing president of the Bermuda Karting Club, for all that he has done during his tenure.

Madam President associated herself with the congratulations for the event highlighting former Senator Mrs. Michelle Simmons.

Adjournment

2:12p.m.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 7th June 2023 – which was agreed to.

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

2:13p.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

2:28p.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson

2:52p.m. – Senator R.S. Tucker

3:01p.m. – Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill

3:08p.m. – Senator B.A. Smith

3:22p.m. – Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell

3:39p.m.

Senate adjourned until Wednesday, 7th June 2023.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 7th June 2023

NIL