

**BERMUDA**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE**

**SESSION OF 2022 - 2023**

**No. 12**

**WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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 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.

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

**10:01a.m.**

On the motion of Senator K.J. Bell, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, May 24th 2023 were taken as read and confirmed.

**Announcements**

**10:02a.m.**

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson presented for the information of Senate the "Bermuda Monetary Authority Annual Report 2022".

**10:02a.m.**

Senator L.L. Robinson presented for the information of Senate: the "Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Act 2022 Commencement Day Notice 2023", as made by the Minister responsible for labour, in exercise of the power conferred by section 23 of the

Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Act 2022;

The "Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage) Amendment Order 2023", as made by the Minister responsible for labour, in exercise of the power conferred by section 11 of the Employment (Wage Commission) Act 2019; and

The "Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Regulations 2023", as made by the Minister responsible for labour, in exercise of the power conferred by sections 6(2) and 7(2) of the Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Act 2022.

**10:04a.m.**

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson presented for the information of Senate: the "Public Health (Communicable Disease) Order 2023", as made by the Minister responsible for health, in exercise of the power conferred by section 67 of the Public Health Act 1949; and

The "Quarantine (Communicable Disease) Order 2023", as made by the Minister responsible for health, in exercise of the power conferred by section 8(b) of the Quarantine Act 2017.

**Ministerial Statements**

**10:05a.m.**

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell, as Minister of Youth, Culture and Sport, made a Ministerial Statement on "National Heroes Day Celebrations 2023".

**10:09a.m.**

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell, as Minister of Youth, Culture and Sport, made a Ministerial Statement on "Special Olympics Bermuda".

**10:14a.m.**

Senator L.L. Robinson, as Junior Minister of Economy and Labour, made a Ministerial Statement on "Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage) Order 2023 and

Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Regulations 2023.”

**10:20a.m.**

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson, as Junior Minister of Finance, made a Ministerial Statement on “The Bermuda Monetary Authority Annual Report 2022”.

**10:31a.m**

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

The “Financial Assistance Amendment Act 2023”; and

The “Tourism Investment Amendment Act 2023”.

**Question Period**

**10:32a.m.**

Senator B.A. Smith asked a question to Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell on his Ministerial Statement entitled “Special Olympics Bermuda”.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson asked a question.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill asked a question.

Senator L.L. Robinson asked a question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question to Senator L.L. Robinson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage) Order 2023 and Employment (Minimum Hourly Wage Entitlement) Regulations 2023”.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a question.

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

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

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator B.A. Smith asked a question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a question to Senator A.J.L. Hodgson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “The Bermuda Monetary Authority Annual Report 2022”.

Senator K.J. Bell asked a question.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a question.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson informed Madam President she would endeavour to get the answers.

**Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Senator B.A. Smith.**

\*Q1. Would the Honourable Minister please provide the Senate with an update on the Solar Project at the Bermuda National Sports Centre?

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

\*Q2. Would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to how much money has been spent from the bank loan for the Solar Project to date?

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

\*Q3. Would the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate as to whether there have been any delays on completion of the Project, and if so, please provide details on what has caused the delays?

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator B.A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator B.A. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell replied.

**11:11a.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Jason P. Hayward, JP, MP, Minister of Economy and Labour, in the Public Gallery.

**11:12a.m.**

**Senator A.J.L. Hodgson provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto.**

\*Q1. Would the Junior Minister please provide the Senate with a description of the debt obligations and credit support on which a Consultant was hired as a Strategic Advisor to Government regarding the proposed restructuring of certain debt obligations related to the Fairmont Southampton Princess and the provision of certain credit support by the Government, including the amount and terms of the debt and the amount and terms of the credit support?

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

\*Q2. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to why the above-noted debt obligations needed to be restructured?

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

\*Q3. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to the advice/recommendations that the Strategic Advisor provided to Government for the restructuring, including

whether the advice/recommendations have been or will be implemented?

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a supplementary question.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto asked a second supplementary question.

Senator A.J.L. Hodgson replied.

**Senator L.L. Robinson provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Senator R.S. Tucker.**

\*Q1. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to the total amount spent to date since the Immigration automation/digitization project began, including the purchase of the Microsoft Dynamics system and any hardware or software for the automation/digitization project?

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

\*Q2. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to the total number of consultants and part-time or temporary workers hired to work on the Immigration automation/digitization project and the remuneration for each individual?

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

\*Q3. Would the Junior Minister please inform the Senate as to the current progress on the project and the expected roll out date for the automation/digitization?

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator R.S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

Senator L.L. Robinson provided an Oral Response to a question asked by Senator R.J. Wight at the last sitting:-

\*Q1. The report states that the decrease in the balance of payments surplus balance was as a result of decreases in the business services

account and transportation account balances. Can we please elaborate on what these accounts are and why the decreases?

Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

### **Orders of the Day**

#### **11:34a.m.**

Senator L.L. Robinson 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 "Financial Assistance Amendment Act 2023" - which was agreed to.

#### **11:35a.m**

Senator L.L. Robinson moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Financial Assistance Amendment Act 2023" be now read the second time.

Senator Robinson spoke on the Bill.

11:42a.m. – Senator R.S Tucker

11:46a.m. – Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill

11:48a.m. – Senator B.A. Smith

11:50a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

11:52a.m. – Senator A.J.L. Hodgson

11:55a.m. – Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

11:55a.m. – Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell

12:00p.m. – Senator L.L. Robinson replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

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

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

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.L. Robinson moved that the Bill entitled the "Financial Assistance 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.

#### **12:04p.m.**

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell 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 "Tourism Investment Amendment Act 2023" - which was agreed to.

#### **12:05p.m.**

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that the Public Bill entitled "Tourism Investment Amendment Act 2023" be now read the second time.

Senator Darrell spoke on the Bill.

12:20p.m. - Senator R.J. Wight

#### **12:24p.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.

#### **2:00p.m.**

The Senate resumed.

#### **2:00p.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Minister of Tourism and the Cabinet Office, the Hon. Vance M.E. Campbell, JP, MP, in the Chamber.

2:01p.m. - Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

2:13p.m. - Senator L.K. Simmons

2:19p.m. - Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill

2:22p.m. - Senator B.A. Smith

2:30p.m. - Senator L.L. Robinson

2:37p.m. - Senator the Hon. 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 “Tourism Investment 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.

### **Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches**

**2:45p.m.**

Senator L.K. Simmons congratulated the Bermuda Police Service on Operation Vega and their efforts to clamp down on road and traffic violations.

Senator R.S. Tucker extended condolences to the family of the late Mr. Colton Rockwell, a wonderful and friendly gentleman. She also congratulated Madam President on life accomplishments and experiences highlighted by Mrs. Snaith-Simmons’ article on the President’s journey in life. Senator Tucker associated all Senators with her remarks.

Senator Rev. Dr. E.G.A. Dill offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Cyril Raynor, one of Bermuda’s most outstanding and skilled labourers. Mr. Raynor was an excellent well driller and a strong supporter of Bermuda’s Special Olympians/Athletes. Senator Dill congratulated Bermudian Dr. Lisa Bowden on her appointment as the Head of Veterinarian Services at Edinburgh University.

Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto offered thoughts and prayers to the visitor who was

severely injured in a road traffic accident in St. George’s. He associated himself with the condolences extended to the family of the late Mr. Crockwell. He also associated himself with the congratulations extended to Madam President and Dr. Lisa Bowden. Senator DeCouto congratulated all the participants in the Marion to Bermuda Yacht Race and to all the optimist sailors who will represent Bermuda at the upcoming event overseas. Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto congratulated the Portuguese community in Bermuda on their upcoming Azores Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Senator L.L. Robinson congratulated the Bermuda Arts Council on their lovely Annual Awards programme held at the Earl Cameron Theatre and gave special acknowledgement to the awards recipients. Senator L.L. Robinson congratulated Mr. Carlton “Peppi” Dill on celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is known to the community as a football player and his deep love for the sport, acting as a mentor to many young players.

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell congratulated Mr. Dominic Mayho on his 6<sup>th</sup> win in the Sinclair Packwood Race. He also congratulated Mr. Lamont Marshall and Ms. Gayle Lindsay on the wins in their respective categories. Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell congratulated the Bermuda Pickle Ball Association on hosting an outstanding event over the weekend. He also congratulated Bermuda Cricket Board on the game at Bailey’s Bay Cricket Club between Western Stars and Bailey’s Bay. Senator Darrell congratulated all organisers and participants in the Bermuda Day Parade and events. Finally, Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell congratulated Dr. Kim Dismont-Robinson and the Department of Culture and the Culture Officers on all they did to ensure a successful day of celebrations.

Madam President associated herself with the congratulations extended on the successful Bermuda Day Parade events and festivities. She offered thanks to Minister Darrell and the entire Ministry team. Madam President extended condolences to the family of the late Mr. Corneal “Chocolate” Smith, a footballer honoured by the Bermuda Football Association for his lifelong commitment; and Honorary Life President of Devonshire Colts Football Club.

**Adjournment**

**3:08p.m.**

Senator the Hon. O.K. Darrell moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – which was agreed to.

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

3:08p.m. - Senator R.S. Tucker

3:15p.m. - Senator L.L. Robinson

3:25p.m. - Senator Dr. D.S.J. DeCouto

**3:30p.m.**

Senate adjourned until Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**PRESIDENT**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Wednesday – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

NIL

[Subsequent to the meeting, the adjournment date was postponed until Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2023]