

**MONTSERRAT
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**Hansard No. 7 of the 18th Parliament
Held on Wednesday, 23rd April, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Cultural Centre, Little Bay**

**Swearing-in Ceremony of Her Excellency the Governor, Ms. Harriett
Victoria Cross**

PRESENT:

Honourable Marjorie Smith	Speaker
Honourable Reuben Meade	Premier/Minister of Finance & Economic Management
Honourable Veronica Dorsette-Hector	Deputy Premier & Minister of Buildings, Utilities, Infrastructure, Labour, Trans- portation, Energy, & Ecclesiastic Affairs
Honourable Ingrid Buffonge	Minister for Education, Health, & Social Services
Honourable John Osborne	Minister for Agriculture, Land, Housing, Environment, Youth Affairs & Sports
Honourable Crenston Buffonge	Parliamentary Secretary
Honourable Dwayne Hixon	Parliamentary Secretary
Honourable Paul Lewis	Leader of the Opposition
Honourable Donaldson Romeo	Opposition Member of Parliament
Honourable Nyota Mulcare	Opposition Member of Parliament
Honourable Sheree Jemmotte-Rodney	Attorney General
Honourable Kenya Lee	Financial Secretary (Ag)

The Clerk said:

Her Excellency, the Governor Designate, Ms. Harriet Victoria Cross.

Her Excellency the Governor, Acting Mrs. Lindorna Sweeney.

1. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Pastor Shane McFarlane.

Madam Speaker said:

Let us be seated, please. I am quite pleased to see those of you who have gathered here this afternoon to witness this swearing-in ceremony that affirms the relationship between the British Government, His Majesty's Government, and Montserrat. Your very presence demonstrates your understanding of the significance of this relationship. After several months of waiting, following the announcement of a new Governor, I am quite pleased and have the honour to welcome Ms. Harriet Cross, Governor-designate, to our beautiful island, Montserrat. I would just like to say to her husband, who is here with her, welcome. But she would have been in good hands. We are glad anyway that you could accompany her.

Her Excellency, the Acting Governor, Mrs. Lindorna Sweeney, a very pleasant welcome to you. To all Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, former legislators who have served and other officials, we welcome you as well. Members of the clergy, permanent secretaries and heads of departments, public servants, representatives of the various private sector organisations, teachers, students, specially invited guests, ladies and gentlemen who are here with us, as well as those viewing online, we are happy that you could join us. Good afternoon and welcome.

It is expected that the proceedings this afternoon would flow without undue interruptions. However, at this time, I would like to kindly ask that cell phones be placed on silent or completely turned off. Thank you very much. At this time, we'll proceed with an address from Her Excellency, the Acting Governor, Mrs. Lindorna Sweeney.

The Acting Governor said:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wish to acknowledge the order of precedent as presented. Madam Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to address this Honourable House as we mark the arrival and formal swearing-in of Ms. Harriet Cross as Governor of Montserrat. Ms. Cross, on behalf of the entire public service and the people of Montserrat, I extend to you and Phil our warmest and sincerest welcome. I must warn you, though, that our idea of a warm welcome not only includes hiking and sunshine, and I have no evidence of this, but I'm told that there's also quite a bit of warmth in a healthy sampling of our strongest bush rum.

Today marks a historic moment in our calendar, not just in terms of the long-standing history between Montserrat and the United Kingdom and your appointment as His Majesty's representative, but in terms of what it signifies. With the appointment of a new Governor comes the opportunity to reaffirm our partnership with the UK, founded on collaboration, cooperation, and change. As Governor, your constitutional and ceremonial duties are well-established, but beyond these formal activities, you are now part of our community with the important task of working alongside us as a partner and champion of good governance. We therefore welcome your experience and the strength of your network to unlock new avenues to support our sustainable development. We look forward to your support in helping to amplify our case both on the ground and in London to ensure that our ambitions are clearly understood and supported.

Your distinguished service with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, including your most recent posting as British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, has no doubt given you some insight into the nuances and rhythm of life in the Caribbean. We suspect you may already be familiar with the sight of an agouti, the sound of steel pan, and the taste of roti, which will no doubt smooth your transition from doubles to ducna and from Trini carnival to Montserrat masquerade. More seriously, your diplomatic experience in Port of Spain and your broader career of leadership, service and elevating the voices of those you represent, show that you are well prepared for the responsibility of your new role here in Montserrat. In the poignant words of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, diplomacy is not

a zero-sum game. It works best when all sides gain something of value. That spirit of diplomacy, mutual respect, shared progress and thoughtful dialogue is something we value deeply here in Montserrat, and it is something we hope to strengthen with you and your team as our relationship with the UK and our funding partners continues to evolve.

As Deputy Governor, I want to affirm the public services' commitment to working with you in the spirit of partnership, professionalism and mutual respect. We look forward to a collaborative and constructive relationship, one grounded in shared goals and focused on the continued development and well-being of our people. Our public service stands as the backbone of the island's governance, embodying a commitment to integrity, accountability and the pursuit of excellence. In this vein, we recognise the need to adapt, to innovate, and to be more responsive to the needs of the people we serve. As we begin this new chapter together, know that we are eager not only to help you settle in, but also to get straight to work on the challenges and opportunities ahead. From transforming our public service and strengthening capacity, to enhancing security and advancing our standing on the international stage. There is much to do, and we are excited to continue that journey with you.

From the outside, Montserrat may seem small in size, but we are mighty in spirit and ambitious for development. Our journey has been shaped by endurance, whether in the face of natural disasters or the trials of rebuilding. We are a resilient people who have always embraced these challenges with resolve. You need only to consider that this year marks 30 years of volcanic eruptions to understand our enduring optimism. We are rebuilding and reimagining not only our public service, but our infrastructure and economy, and how we secure long-term sustainability. Whilst we may look at the world from slightly different perspectives, and may likely have moments of robust debate, we are united in the common goal of advancing the interests of this island. We are proud of our heritage, steadfast in our values, and ready to embrace the future.

Each Governor brings with them a measure of institutional continuity, but also unique energies, interests, and talents that we can all learn

and benefit from. The personality of a Governor not only has the ability to shape this position, but also to influence it. With your commitment to transformational and collaborative leadership, I am assured that we are in safe hands. We are hopeful that your time here will not only be productive and impactful, but also joyful. We wish for you many moments of connection, discovery, personal and professional success. We extend our hand in friendship and our hearts in solidarity. As you traverse the length and breadth of this island, you will find a place rich in pristine beauty and a sense of community. You will encounter an enduring aspiration for greater opportunity, whether in business, community advancement, or personal development. It is within this context that your role as Governor becomes both pivotal and deeply valued. Together, let us work to ensure that Montserrat continues to thrive. Thank you, and once again, welcome to Montserrat, Alliouguana, the Emerald Isle, the place that we, and now you, call home. Thank you.

Madam Speaker said:

Thank you kindly. We'll now have the Royal Warrant to appoint Ms. Harriet Cross as Governor of Montserrat. That will be read by our Clerk, Mrs. Judith Baker.

The Clerk said:

Charles III, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

To our trustee and well-beloved Ms. Harriet Victoria Cross, greetings. We do, by this our Commission under our Sign Manual and Signet, appoint you, the said Ms. Harriet Victoria Cross, to be our Governor in and over our Territory of the Island of Montserrat, during our pleasure, with all the powers, rights, privileges, and advantages to the said office belonging or appertaining. And we do direct that your appointment shall take effect from the time of your disembarkation in our said Territory. And we do hereby command all and singular our officers and loving subjects in our said Territory, and all others whom it may concern, to take due notice hereof and to give their ready obedience accordingly. And we do hereby direct that this our Commission shall determine upon signification to that effect being given by us

through one of our Principal Secretaries of State. Given at our Court of St James's this third day of March, 2025, in the third year of our reign, by His Majesty command.

Madam Speaker said:

The Honourable Attorney General will now administer the oath.

Ms. Harriet Cross takes oath as Governor.

I, Harriet Victoria Cross, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, his heirs and successors, according to law.

I, Harriet Victoria Cross, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve His Majesty King Charles III, his heirs and successors, and the people of Montserrat, in the office of Governor of Montserrat.

Madam Speaker said:

Thank you. We'll now continue with a number of addresses. I will commence, followed by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and after him, the Honourable Premier, and finally, Her Excellency, the Governor.

It may be considered unusual that a new Governor to Montserrat is welcomed with a challenge. A word which many may consider to have a negative connotation, but on the contrary, Your Excellency, it is with respect that I implore you to steer your leadership with service from an open mind, such that we'll never be prejudiced nor persuaded by unreasonableness. Instead, let your tenure be propelled by a desire for progress, for growth, and for the development of this land that may appear to be just a little dot on the map, but which means the world to us. For many years prior to 2004, there was a dominance of male Governors on Montserrat. And while I mean no disrespect to men, for they are charming creatures who also have their roles to play but it is wonderful to see that women continue to undertake roles of significance. You, Governor Cross, are the fourth female Governor to be appointed to Montserrat within the last 21 years.

My research has informed me that you have occupied top positions having managed the Boston Consulate from 2016 to 2020 and more recently being the British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago prior to your posting here. These are only two of the many high-profile ranks you have held, and I applaud you. Your Excellency, you are now being introduced to a place that some may regard as unworthy of mention due to its small size, dwindling population, struggling economy, little to no entertainment spots among other things. But what we have is enviable and we meekly boast of our love for God and our fellow men, our tranquillity, resilience, hospitality, and intelligence. Yes, intelligence. Most if not all of our infrastructure was designed and built by local architects and contractors. We had and still have the capacity and the competence that need only to be utilized. Some of us have even become self-proclaimed experts at providing advice on hurricanes and volcanic eruptions.

If you have not already done so, do make some time and check out videos of our island's beauty pre-volcano. As a matter of fact, it is important that as you move around the island, you absorb the captivating, breath taking, awe-inspiring beauty of which we brag. We have endured much, but it seems that the devastating Hurricane Hugo of 1989 and the ongoing volcanic eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano since 1995 is no match for the economic turbulence that may be looming. As pointed out in our recent budget presentation two weeks ago, if the trend in the United States continues, like many other countries and small island developing Territories, Montserrat will undoubtedly be impacted. Indeed, the old adage is true. When America sneezes, the whole world catches a cold.

Your Excellency, our cultural dynamics will obviously vary, and personalities may even clash at times, since we will all have diverse expectations. However, we must ensure that our objectives for this 39.5 square miles of land space that has been ravaged by volcanic activity for just under 30 years are aligned for the common good. This Parliament is enormous, not to be assessed by the paucity of its Membership, but by the intent of the heart of every parliamentarian here seated and their aspirations for this piece of volcanic rock. The recent conclusion of our budget, supported by all Members of this Honourable Assembly, emphasises the high ideals and expectations for the development of the island and her people. But we aspire for greater. In

some instances, what we have may not satisfy one's concept of perfection, as in other Overseas Territories. A prime example being our current location here in the Cultural Centre to host sittings of Parliament. In the spirit of service to community, however, we use what is available to us, but from where I sit, I envision a triumph when we are finally able to function from a fit-for-purpose facility that symbolises the importance of Parliament. In identifying resolutions for the many concerns that Montserrat faces, it would require examination of every case in its own context. As His Majesty the King's representative, we value your backing in our pursuit for advancement of Montserrat and our Parliament, one that fosters professional and efficient service for the people of the greatest space on earth.

It is with these things in mind that we appeal to your good office, Your Excellency, to assist us in creating an enabling environment that would champion our cause to pull this little paradise island out of budgetary aid. As a famous Chinese philosopher once said, give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. No, it is not an overnight thing, but it is a possible thing if we work together to promote the One Montserrat Project. I now therefore urge every citizen and resident of Montserrat to rise up, answer the call, and commit to supporting the effort of rebuilding our Montserrat. Your Excellency, in your role as Governor of Montserrat, the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean, I wish you every success. Thank you and welcome once again.

I recognise the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Paul Lewis said:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Your Excellency, I extend welcome to our beautiful black sand beaches with the warmest Montserratian hospitality. I can assure you that as you begin your sojourn amongst us, our brand of hospitality is unlike any other you have witnessed throughout the region. Thus, I am confident that beyond your official duties here, you will equally begin to experience and enjoy the beauty of our landscape and the unique culture of the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean. Welcome. Your presence here should not only reflect your leadership and dedication to service, but also a symbol of your commitment to working with key stakeholders in strengthening our public institutions and improving the lives and livelihoods of our people, as

well as beginning of what we hope will be a genuine and productive partnership between your office and the people of Montserrat.

As you assume your role and responsibilities, we extend not just our congratulations, but also our expectations. Expectations rooted in mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a vision for progress. We look forward to a leadership that will reinvigorate the moral fibre of our public service, restoring integrity, accountability, and a culture of service above self. It is our firm belief that when public servants lead with principle and conscience, the people prosper. There are expectations that under your watch, good governance will not just be a mere slogan, but a living, breathing standard. As a country striving for better conditions for our people, socially, economically and politically, we are ready to work closely with you towards ensuring that we deliver services within the benchmark of the international community of standards. It is my desire to see your partnership here with us as one that prioritises transparency, responsiveness, inclusivity, and justice, laying a strong foundation upon which citizens can trust, participate and be confident and thrive.

Furthermore, Your Excellency, we are a proud people with a rich history and a strong tradition of excellence across many endeavours. The setback that Mother Nature bestowed upon us did not see us lose the qualities that make our island exceptional. We seek growth, and within this growth, we one day aspire towards self-determination. It is a spirit that burns within our very fibres. We therefore expect nothing less than your support as we champion this spirit of self-determination. We believe in our power to shape our own future through education, innovation, creative enterprise, transformational leadership, and civic responsibility. Your Excellency, this is a moment for bold vision with decisive action. The path to national development and sustained growth lies in the systems that work, institutions that serve, and leadership that listens and responds. Let this be the era in which we rise not just economically, but morally and socially, where we are united in purpose and steadfast in our resolve. With you working with us, we strive to move this island away from mere sustenance to a strong footing of sustainability. Once again, we warmly welcome you, not just to enjoy our culture and beauty, but to become part of our journey. We stand ready to walk with you in this journey towards a Montserrat that is more just, more ethical, and more prosperous, and

fulfils the hope of every citizen. May your tenure be marked by courage, guided by wisdom, and remembered for achievements we can all appreciate, share, and celebrate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker said:

I recognise the Honourable Premier.

The Premier said:

Madam Speaker, my brothers and sisters all. I don't have the kind of eloquence of my colleague on the other side, so I'll be rather brief. Just to say, as the elder statesman in this House and as I've explained to the Governor yesterday in our brief meeting, she will be the eighth Governor with whom I've had the pleasure of working with. I've never had a problem with Governors before, and I don't think both of us will have a problem. I just want to make a few points, however. We don't choose our Governors. Our Governors are sent, so we work with whoever is sent to us. We must also recognise, and I urge you, Madam Governor, that you ensure that the Constitution of Montserrat is followed as closely as possible. There are others who may have preceded you who were of the view that because they were Governor that they were in charge of everything. And that has led to the breakdown in the public service where the role of the Governor and the role of the Deputy Governor were clashing. The Governor is, in fact, the chief adjudicator, and the Deputy Governor is the one with responsibility for the public service and reports up. That's very important.

The second element is that Ministers of Government, by the Constitution, have certain constitutional responsibilities. And although the responsibility of the Governor says one thing, in the Constitution it is very, very important that the Governor and the Premier work very closely together, even on matters that appertain to the Governor in her sole responsibility. And I'll give one example. Emergency situations, hurricanes, volcanoes, etc., it has to be a shared responsibility. For the very simple reason that we were elected as representatives of the people of this country, and therefore it would be difficult if the governor said to go left and the elected representative said to go right. So, it is critically important that we work closely together, and based on our brief conversation yesterday, I have no doubt that that will happen. There will be challenges. There will be disagreements, but we

don't have to be disagreeable, and that's very important. If we are to have a disagreement, we will have it behind closed doors. And we'll come out smiling to the rest of the public, because it's not everything we discuss behind closed doors must come out to the public. And I'll give one example, and I think I gave it to you yesterday, but just for the public. Frank Savage, with whom I worked, and who has now become a very close friend of mine, we had a disagreement which lasted at least a month. My permanent secretary was not even aware of it. As a peace offering, Frank Savage sent his driver with a case of wine to my house, and I called him and I said, Frank, are you trying to bribe me? He said, Yes. Be very careful how some of you report this. We then sorted business out, and we got back to doing things amicably. So, we will work together, and this might actually be a plea from the very outset for the Governor to send me a case of wine.

Our challenges in Montserrat are not huge. We are a small, developing island state. We must reduce our reliance on HMG's annual support. We have to look at building our private sector, getting foreign direct investment, local investment, and investment from the diaspora, and we will seek to work with you to ensure that these things are done. In terms of our tourist sites and tourist promotion, as I indicated to you yesterday, we have to work together in terms of how we can maximise and monetise the volcano. For example, cruise ships are coming in, they go into Plymouth, sorry, the passengers go into Plymouth, they stand on the jetty, look around. We now have to look at developing Plymouth, where it becomes a tourism site where we can monetise that volcanic activity. Where they can come in, drive through a couple of the streets in Plymouth, take their photographs, get back out. Likewise, St. George's Hill, we need to get that back on the tourist map. The tourism promoters are asking for us to do that, and we'll work together to ensure we get some of these things done. I am so happy that when I went across to talk to my brother Charles Kirnon, a gentleman just in front of him nodded and said, Hello. I'm happy that he has arrived and arrived safely. We'll get a chance to talk.

We welcome you warmly to Montserrat. Your sojourn here will be one where we will work with mutual respect, mutual responsibilities, and diligence in ensuring that your role, both as Governor and now as the FCDO representative, which is a role that is new, I'm not even too

sure the FCDO is certain how that works as yet, but it is relatively new, and we will ensure that we get these things right. And the projects on which we are working, that we will, through your leadership and my leadership, be in a position to get them going. The decision on the port project has already been made, and you will be thrown in on the deep end, not off the jetty, but in relation to coming on board in terms of the management of that project as well. So, we will need your experience on that. We'll share our experiences, and we'll get these projects completed for the benefit of the people of Montserrat.

So, Madam Speaker, in closing, our heartiest welcome to you, Madam Governor. How do you refer to him? And your dear husband. I was going to call you something else, but I'll leave it as the dear husband. And I hope the two cats arrive safely as well. So, while you're here, enjoy Montserrat, while at the same time, we'll work diligently so that at the end of your tenure, you can look back and say, I have done a good job alongside the Government of Montserrat. Madam Speaker, I wish to say welcome to the Governor and her family. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker said:

And for the first time in her capacity as Governor of Montserrat, Her Excellency, Ms. Harriet Cross, will now address Parliament.

The Governor said:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Honourable Premier, Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Honourable Ministers of Government, Honourable Deputy Governor, Honourable Attorney General, Honourable Financial Secretary, Honourable Leader and Members of His Majesty's Opposition, Her Honour the Chief Magistrate, Chair and Members of the Public Service Commission, the Auditor General Acting, Permanent Secretaries, Commander of the Royal Montserrat Defence Force, Commissioner of the Royal Montserrat Police Service, heads of departments, members of the public, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Thank you for all your words of welcome this afternoon. I have listened carefully to what you have told me, and I look forward to discussing in more detail some of the issues that have been covered today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, in particular, the Honourable Deputy

Governor, Mrs. Lindorna Sweeney, for her support in the role of Acting Governor over the past two weeks. Many thanks. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Mrs. Sarah Tucker and her husband, Mr. Howard Tucker, for all they did during their time in Montserrat. I know I have a playground to open, which Sarah was very keen for me to do fairly quickly when I got here because she was, she was really proud of the work that she did on that.

It is with immense honour and gratitude that I stand before you today as the newly appointed Governor of Montserrat. I am deeply humbled by the trust placed in me to serve the people of this beautiful Emerald Isle. I will rely on your wise counsel as I listen and learn throughout my tenure as Governor. The strength and resilience of the people of Montserrat is legendary, and it is a reputation that has been hard won. The 30th anniversary this July of the initial Soufrière Hills eruption in 1995 will be an opportunity to raise awareness of what the island and its people went through and the challenges which still remain. I'm also conscious that we are a matter of weeks away from the hurricane season. I hope it will be a gentle one, but we will prepare for what may come our way. This is an incredibly important task not just for the Governor and the Disaster Management Coordination Agency but for everyone on island. Let me thank at this point the DMCA leadership, in particular Lieutenant Colonel Alvin Ryan, for all the work that the DMCA does to keep us safe.

As I was preparing for this role, time and time again, I was told by everyone I encountered, that's people in the British Government, people in academia and people in industry, they told me how much Montserrat impressed them, every single person and that's not only about the beauty of the island but actually about the dignity in the face of adversity and the opportunities that really do abound here. I also had the honour of an audience with His Majesty the King a few weeks back, and he also spoke of Montserrat with great warmth and great interest. Madam Speaker, while I am a representative of His Majesty the King, I am also mindful that I have sworn an oath to serve the people of Montserrat. As your Governor, I pledge to work hand in hand with the Premier and Cabinet, fostering a relationship built on mutual respect, collaboration and a shared vision. Together, we will do our utmost to enhance the lives of all Montserratians, ensuring that our actions reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Montserrat is well-known for being a safe and kind community, but in turbulent times, we need to work even harder to protect our island. The safety and well-being of all citizens will be my top priority. I was impressed to hear of the advances made to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities. I want to further reinforce these measures so that Montserrat can boast of being a regional leader not just in terms of being a low-crime island for which you should be rightly proud, but also in terms of having a culture of care and dignity for all. Speaking up will strengthen this culture of respect and should become the norm, and those who speak up will be heard. Madam Speaker, good governance is the cornerstone of a thriving and prosperous society. I know Montserrat is blessed with many dedicated public servants who work tirelessly. I look forward to getting to know the public service, understanding the challenges you face, while appreciating and strengthening your many skills. Like you, I commit to upholding transparency, accountability and integrity in all my actions.

Montserrat is an island of much potential. I pledge to support the elected government and local businesses to drive forward economic growth. Working to engage international finance will also be an important part of my role in this growth agenda. We will work together with the UK to prioritise the development of infrastructure, including the new port and hospital, as well as a range of other UK-funded projects which will open up new opportunities. These projects will not only create jobs and improve lives, but also attract investment, driving our economy forward. Access to the island is, of course, a critical piece of this economic strategy, and I look forward to working further with the Honourable Premier on this. Madam Speaker, I recognise how precious the environment is to the people of Montserrat, and I see the dedication to ensuring that Montserrat remains a haven of biodiversity and beauty for generations to come. From lush rainforests to brilliant marine life, I pledge to cherish and work with you all to preserve our island's unique ecological heritage as part of sustainable economic development. As your Governor, I commit to being accessible and approachable. I look forward to you getting to know me and my family. As the Honourable Premier has mentioned, I'm here with my husband Phil and our two cats, Claudius and Mavie. The cats are 18 years old and will be looking forward to doing little more than sleeping in the sun. This is definitely their retirement posting, it's not

mine, and me and Phil are slightly less lazy than the cats, and we're really looking forward to getting to know the trails. We both love hiking and we also want to get out onto the water as well.

I want to engage with the community and listen to your voices, hear your concerns and ideas and aspirations. Together, we will work towards a brighter future for Montserrat, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, where inclusion and diversity are embraced to reinforce a cohesive and vibrant community. I'm looking forward to learning more about local traditions and getting to know the rich cultural heritage of Montserrat. St. Patrick's Day and Carnival are clearly highlights for next year, at least in terms of St. Patrick's Day, but I'm also really excited to find out more about the Calabash Festival and the literary festival that you hold. I realised that none of this would be possible without the energetic voluntary organisations here on island. I look forward to meeting you and seeing your hard work at first-hand.

In closing, I want to thank you all again for welcoming me so warmly today. I want to give particular thanks to the staff of the Governor's Office for all the hard work that you have done to get me here and to settle me in. Thank you so much. I promise to work in the best interests of Montserrat, and I look forward to contributing fully to the further development of this beautiful island. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker said:

I now invite everyone to kindly stand as Her Excellency the Governor leaves the Assembly.

We will now be seated for the adjournment. Recognise the Honourable Premier.

The Premier said:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion for the adjournment of this Honourable House sine die.

Madam Speaker said:

I recognise the Honourable Deputy Premier.

The Minister for Buildings et al said:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to second that motion for the adjournment of this Honourable House sine die.

Madam Speaker said:

Honourable Members, it has been moved and seconded that this Honourable House now stand adjourned sine die.

The question was put and carried.

Madam Speaker said:

This Honourable House now stands adjourned sine die.

Assembly adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2025

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly