



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Honourable the House of Assembly

At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Parliament Buildings on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2016, pursuant to the adjournment.

PRESENT

- His Honour M. A. Carrington, Q.C., B.A., LL.B. (*Speaker*)
Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. Thompson, B.A., M.Sc. (Ph. Ed.) (*Deputy Speaker*)
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| Mr. G. A. Clarke, J.P., B.Sc., Dip. Ed. | Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, M.Sc., C. Eng. (<i>Minister of Health</i>) (<i>Leader of the House</i>) |
| Mr. R. St. C. Toppin, LL.B. (Hons.) | Hon. S. D. Blackett (<i>Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development</i>) |
| Hon. D. St. E. Kellman (<i>Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development</i>) | Mr. J. D. Paul, B.Sc. (<i>Chairman of Committees</i>) |
| Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, Q.C., LL.B. (<i>Leader of the Opposition</i>) | Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, Dip. Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. (<i>Minister of Environment and Drainage</i>) |
| Miss C. Y. Forde, J.P., L.C.P. | Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.) (<i>Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs</i>) |
| Hon. R. D. Jones, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), M.A. Ed. (<i>Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation</i>) | Hon. S. A. Lashley, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (<i>Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth</i>) |
| Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. (<i>Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management</i>) | Hon. C. P. Sinckler, B.A., M.Sc. (<i>Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs</i>) |
| Mr. D. D. Marshall, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. | Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic, MVO, B.A. (Hons.) |
| Hon. M. A. Lashley, LL.B. (Hons.) (<i>Minister of Transport and Works</i>) | Mr. E. G. Hinkson, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., LL.M. |
| Hon. R. L. Sealy, B.Sc., M.B.A. (<i>Minister of Tourism and International Transport</i>) | Dr. M. M. Agard, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., D.D.S |
| Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, Q.C., B.A., LL.M. (<i>Prime Minister; Minister of National Security, The Public Service and Urban Development</i>) | Mr. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.)
and
Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B. (Hons.) |

ABSENT

Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc. (Econ.), Mr. G. W. Payne, Q.C., Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, B.Sc., M.B.A. (*Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development*), Mr. T. A. Prescod, B.A., Mr. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B.

Mr. Speaker took the Chair at 10.15 a.m.

Prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 were taken as read and were confirmed on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR**THE SPEAKER**

Mr. Speaker announced that he was in receipt of the following:

1. The Auditor General’s Financial Statements for 2014 – 2015.
2. The Auditor General’s Report for 2015.

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ NOTICES

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley gave notice of the following:

WHEREAS the Government of Barbados in the Budget of August 2013 delivered by the Minister of Finance announced a 19 month Home-grown Fiscal Adjustment Strategy which was further revised by the Minister of Finance in his Ministerial Statements to Parliament in December 2013 and March 2014, after failed attempts from 2010 and 2011 with a Medium Term Fiscal Strategy and a Revised Medium Term Fiscal Strategy, respectively.

AND WHEREAS some of the taxation measures were extended beyond March 31st 2015 in order to meet the targets for the stabilization of the Government of Barbados fiscal affairs.

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance in his 2015 Budget reflected that the objectives of the said Home-grown Fiscal Adjustment Strategy were to:

1. Restore and stabilise the foreign exchange reserves so as to be able to protect our fixed exchange rate;
2. Reduce the fiscal deficit to sustainable levels; and
3. Lay the foundation for returning the Barbados economy to a sustainable path.

AND WHEREAS according to the information provided in the December 2015 press release of the Central Bank of Barbados the foreign exchange reserves had fallen from \$1,458 million at the end of 2012 to \$927 million at the end of 2015 in spite of a reduction in payments for oil imports of \$380 million and an increase in tourism arrivals in 2015.

AND WHEREAS despite the Minister of Finance in August 2013 setting a fiscal target of 2.8% of GDP to be attained at March 2015, some 31 months later (at March 2016) the overall fiscal deficit was stated in the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2016 – 17 at an estimated 6.3% of GDP (on the basis used by the International Financial Institutions), and is projected to increase to 7.8% by the end of March 2017.

AND WHEREAS at the end of 2007, Government's Gross Public Sector Debt stood at 62% of GDP and at the end of 2015 it had escalated by \$3.996 billion to 110.3% of GDP, excluding in both instances debt owed to the National Insurance Scheme and debt owed to the Central Bank, which, if added as it must be paid, will bring Barbados' Gross Public Sector Debt to the outrageous level of 159.3% of GDP, or in absolute terms a Gross Public Sector Debt of \$13 billion 883 million (\$13.883 billion) up from \$7 billion and 17 million (\$7.017 billion) in 2007, the highest Debt to GDP ratio in the Caribbean.

AND WHEREAS to service this debt the Government of Barbados must provide 64 cents in each dollar of revenue earned by the Government.

AND WHEREAS the Barbados economy is now nominally smaller than it was in 2007, a phenomenon which is characterised by the following features:

- a significant deterioration in the level of investment being undertaken in Barbados by Barbadian households and businesses;
- a fall in the value of their properties and other assets;
- the said households and businesses subsisting on their savings; and
- a virtual doubling of unemployment since 2007.

AND WHEREAS the foregoing has reflected a dramatic deterioration in the disposable incomes and a decline in the quality of life of Barbadians across all income levels.

AND WHEREAS the Central Bank of Barbados has, in spite of multiple and diverse warnings, persisted in the printing of money to support the Government's unsustainable deficit and the Government's desire not to default on local debt, such that it now holds almost \$1.1 billion in exposure to Government paper up from \$20.5 million in 2007, thereby putting at risk the exchange rate peg.

AND WHEREAS the NIS continues to be also used as a means of financing government's mounting unsustainable deficit, such that at December 31st 2015 the NIS held over \$3.2 billion in government paper while at the same time being owed about \$240 million in arrears by the said Government of Barbados.

AND WHEREAS Barbadians have suffered a severe reduction in disposable income resulting from:

1. a wage freeze in the public sector and parts of the private sector;
2. the imposition of over 33 increases in taxes and fees over the course of the last 8 years;
3. the removal of allowances and deductions for income tax purposes;
4. persistent increases in cost of living.

AND WHEREAS the Government's severe cash flow difficulties are reflected in the inability to pay:

1. substantial arrears in income, corporation and Value Added Tax refunds; and
2. agencies and individuals locally and internationally for goods and services provided to Central Government and Statutory Corporations.

AND WHEREAS the Government in its choice of its capital projects and in its pattern of payments of bills and invoices from its creditors has contributed to an unacceptable concentration and consolidation of wealth such that:

1. some entities have easier access to business opportunities and funding;
2. job losses are evident in particular households and communities;
3. there has been marginalisation of certain categories of workers; and
4. there has been an escalating rate of failure among Barbadian businesses.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has presided over a series of 6 downgrades of Barbados' bond ratings since 2009, the most recent of which was issued by Moody's International Credit Rating Service on April 1st 2016, and which have had the collective effect of making it more difficult and more expensive for the Government of Barbados and Barbadian companies to raise capital outside of Barbados.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has failed to either address fully and comprehensively the true state of the Barbadian economy or to produce documents pertaining to independent assessments of the Barbadian economy, such as the International Monetary Fund 2015 Article IV Report in the country's national interest contrary to the conventional practice.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has stated a policy intention of presiding over the construction of a US\$500M sugar factory in the context of a steep annual decline in the island's sugar production (with an estimated paltry 7 000 tons in 2016), while at the same time failing to meet the obligation to adequately incentivise the sugar cane producers in their effort to prepare for upcoming crop seasons.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has persistently refused to take the citizens of Barbados into its confidence in relation to new and/or revised policy pronouncements which threaten to have a negative impact on the wellbeing and fundamental rights of the populace; for example, the proposed dismantling of the Catastrophe Fund (managed by the National Insurance Scheme and established to mitigate the losses of Barbadians from natural disasters) and, separately, the subjecting of Barbadian citizens to compulsory fingerprinting at the ports of entry.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados, contrary to their stated commitment to provide freedom of information and to be transparent and accountable, has acted in a high handed and contemptuous manner by refusing to disclose the particulars of several Memoranda of Understanding or other Agreements (including but not limited to the Sandals MOU and the diverse Cahill Agreements)

into which they have entered in the name of the people of Barbados and which have an impact on the wellbeing of the population, environment and economy of the country.

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister and various Ministers of Government have failed to address appropriately or at all and/or to update the people of Barbados on matters of critical concern including, but not limited to levels of crime, industrial unrest, the stability of the National Insurance Scheme and the condition of the healthcare system while at the same time presiding over an imbalance of fair reporting on stories or events at the country's only free to air television station.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has presided over a severe deterioration in the industrial relations climate of Barbados characterised by labour unrest at various statutory and state-owned corporations including, but not limited to, the Barbados Water Authority, Sanitation Services Authority, Customs Department, Grantley Adams International Airport, the Bridgetown Port, the BIDC and in the teaching profession.

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to adequately or at all address in the short or medium term the existing crisis, which is plaguing one in every four Barbadians across at least 8 parishes in the island, with respect to their access to potable water in their homes, their businesses and all public facilities, especially schools, thereby placing at risk the public health of the citizens and visitors to the island.

AND WHEREAS statutory corporations and Government departments have been systematically deprived of the necessary financial and human resources to execute their mandate, resulting in an inadequacy of equipment and essential supplies for the provision of necessary services to citizens and residents, including garbage collection, healthcare, public transportation, education, sporting, welfare and child support services, causing a deterioration and/or deprivation of critical social services to Barbadian households and communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House has no confidence in the Government of Barbados to properly and effectively manage the affairs of state over the next 22 months of its constitutional term of office, in the best interest of the Country and its people.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. R. D. Jones seconded by Hon. J. D. E. Boyce the following Bill was read a first time.

Caribbean Accreditation Authority (Education in Medicine and other Health Professions) (Incorporation) Act, 2016.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS
ORDER NO. 21
CARIBBEAN ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY (EDUCATION
IN MEDICINE AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS)
(INCORPORATION) BILL, 2016

On the Order being called Hon. R. D. Jones to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions, the Hon. Member spoke and moved seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair in favour of the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley spoke.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce spoke.

SUSPENSION

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite the Sitting was suspended until 2.15 p.m.

At 12.22 p.m. Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

ORDER NO. 21 (resumed)

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke.

Hon. D. St. E. Kellman began to speak.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker ruled no point of order.

Hon. D. St. E. Kellman resumed his speech.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker ruled that certain remarks made by the Member be struck from the record.

Hon. D. St. E. Kellman resumed his speech.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker spoke.

Hon. D. St. E. Kellman concluded his speech.

Dr. M. M. Agard spoke.

Hon. S. A. Lashley spoke.

Hon. A. D. Brathwaite began to speak.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker ruled no point of order.

Hon. A. D. Brathwaite concluded his speech.

Hon. R. D. Jones began to speak.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker ruled no point of order.

Hon. R. D. Jones resumed his speech.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker ruled no point of order.

Hon. R. D. Jones concluded his speech.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. D. Jones seconded by Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick the House went into Committee, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. D. Jones seconded by Hon. J. D. E. Boyce.

On the motion of Hon. R. D. Jones seconded by Hon. J. D. E. Boyce the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to Mr. Speaker who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. R. D. Jones seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 20

Hon. D. St. E. Kellman spoke on the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED that Parliament in accordance with section 5 of the *Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act*, Cap. 225, approve the vesting in the Barbados Water Authority of the parcels of land, the property of the Crown, situate at Lot 60, The Garden Land and Skeete's Road, Bank Hall respectively, both in the parish of Saint Michael, in this Island, more particularly described in the *Schedules* to this Resolution for the public purpose of the construction of a pump station and septic tank as part of the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme (HNUP).

FIRST SCHEDULE

ALL THAT land the property of the Crown situate at Lot 60, The Garden Land, in the parish of Saint Michael, in this Island, containing by admeasurement 210.8 square meters or thereabouts (inclusive of 20.4 square meters in a public drain and 27.7 square meters in road) together with the pump station, wells, manholes, sewerage pipes and connections thereon Abutting and Bounding on lands now or late of James Hinds (Lot 61) on lands now or late of Dorian Cumberbatch on lands now or late of Ione M. Beckles (Lot 59) and on a public road which leads to Forde's Road in one direction and to Skeete's Road in the other direction or however else the same may abut and bound as shown and delineated on a plan certified on the 4th day of February, 2011 by Camille Belgrave, Land Surveyor and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on the 7th day of February, 2011 as Plan No. 135/2011.

SECOND SCHEDULE

ALL THAT land the property of the Crown situate at Skeete's Road, Bank Hall, in the parish of Saint Michael, in this Island, containing by admeasurement 89.9 square meters or thereabouts (inclusive of 7.8 square meters in road reserve) together with the septic tank, wells, manholes, sewerage pipes and connections thereon Abutting and Bounding on three sides on lands now or late of Fleetwood Waterman and on a road known as Skeete's Road which leads to The Garden Land in one direction and to Bank Hall Cross Road in the other direction or however else the same may abut and bound as shown and delineated on a plan certified on the 4th day of February, 2011 by Camille Belgrave, Land Surveyor and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on the 7th day of February, 2011 as Plan No. 136/2011.

and moved seconded by Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe that the Resolution do now pass.

Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic spoke.

The Resolution was passed.

PAPERS (recommitted)

By command Hon. J. D. E. Boyce withdrew certain papers laid on 19th April, 2016 and replaced them with:

1. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 2016.
2. Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 2016.

By command Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe laid the Green Economy Study.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (recommitted)

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce gave notice of the following:

1. Resolution to approve the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 2016.
2. Resolution to approve the Senate and House of Assembly (Remuneration and Allowances of Members) Order, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 10th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

At 5.10 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the House.

RICHARD P. BYER
Deputy Clerk of Parliament.

The Minutes were certified correct and confirmed the _____ day of _____, 2016.

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
BRIDGETOWN.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF 2013 – 2018

MINUTES

Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016.
