

**PARLIAMENT OF BARBADOS  
(FIRST SESSION OF 2018 – 2023)**

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT BILL, 2018**

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Joint Select Committee on the Public Finance Management Bill, 2018 held in the Senate Chambers, Parliament Buildings, Bridgetown on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

**PRESENT WERE:**

Hon. Ryan R. Straughn, M.P.

Hon. Colin E. Jordan, M.P.

Hon. Kirk D. M. Humphrey, M.P.

Senator the Hon. Miss K. C. McConney

Senator Dr. R. O. Springer

Senator Miss C. N. Drakes; and

Senator A. M. Wiggins

**EXCUSES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED BEHALF OF:**

Hon. Dale D. Marshall, Q.C., M.P.

Hon. Wilfred A. Abrahams, M.P.

Bishop Joseph J. S. Atherley, M.P.

Mr. Ralph A. Thorne, Q.C., M.P.

**IN ATTENDANCE WERE:**

Mr. Pedro Eastmond, *Clerk of Parliament*

Mr. Nigel Jones, *Deputy Clerk of Parliament*

Ms. Beverley S. Gibbons, *Deputy Clerk of Parliament*

Miss Suzanne Hamblin, *(Library Assistant) Procedural Officer to the Committee (Ag.)*

Item 1:       **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Pedro Eastmond, Clerk of Parliament at 1:50 p.m. who apologised for the late start. On the motion of Hon. Colin E. Jordan, M.P., seconded by Hon. Ryan R. Straughn, M.P., Hon Dale D. Marshall, M.P., was appointed the Substantive Chairman. On the motion of Senator A. M. Wiggins, seconded by Hon. Kirk D. M. Humphrey, M.P., Hon. Ryan R. Straughn, M.P. was appointed the temporary Chairman for the Meeting.

Item 2:       **WELCOME**

The temporary Chairman welcomed the members present and spoke to the purpose of the Bill and on its review going forward. The objective of which is to bring consistency by the Central Government and State Owned Enterprises to the financial management of Barbados along with having the framework right and accountability. The Bill would replace the existing Financial Management and Audit Act Cap. 5. The Committee agreed to study the Bill so that moving forward everyone will be on the same page.

Item 3:       **QUORUM**

On the motion of the Hon. Colin E. Jordan, M.P., seconded by Senator Dr. R. O. Springer, the Committee agreed that five (5) members should constitute the quorum for meetings.

Item 4:       **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Technical support would be provided by Ms. Shawn Belle of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Item 5:       **PROCEDURE**

The Committee would go through the Bill's current structure and discuss any amendments, proposals and any other issues relating to the Bill. It was agreed that the Financial Management and Audit Act, Cap. 5 along with the Financial Rules be circulated electronically to each member before the next meeting so that they may familiarise themselves with the legislation.

It was agreed that the Minutes would be circulated and that there would be no publicising of the Meetings. The Committee would meet approximately two(2) or three (3) times as there is a deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 for the passing and proclamation of the Act.

Item 6:       **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee agreed that each Section of the Bill would be examined. The Temporary Chairman will circulate the information as it relates to the comparative between the Public Finance Management Bill, 2018 and the Financial Management and Audit Act, Cap. 5. He informed that the Auditor General's Office had engaged with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados (ICAB) to embark on the process of reform. He expressed confidence that the system to be put in place would remedy the situation reflected in the Auditor General's Report, 2017. The Committee agreed that there would be still a need for the Public Accounts Committee.

It was mentioned that no comments had been received from ICAB on the Bill to date. Outside Ministers, the Public Officers and Civil Servants would be affected more as it relates to accountability infrastructure and as it relates to knowing their roles with respect to financial management, so they would have to be brought up to speed.

Item 7: **ADJOURNMENT**

It was proposed that the date of the next Meeting would be Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:30p.m.

There being no other business the temporary Chairman adjourned the Meeting accordingly at 2:10 pm.

Deputy Clerk of Parliament

Confirmed this                      day of                      2019.

Chairman