BARBADOS

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Honourable The Senate

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament at the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, the 14th day of October, 2026, at 11.00 o'clock a.m. pursuant to the adjournment.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Most Honourable R. R. Farley, FB, GA, J.P., B.Sc., C.P.A., C.M.A. *(President)*

Senator the Most Honourable Mr. J. X. Walcott, FB, J.P., M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.) *(Senior Minister – Social and Environmental Policy)*

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins, B.Sc., M.Sc. *(Minister of Health and Wellness) (Leader of Public Business in the Senate)*

Senator the Hon. J. W. D. Reid, B.A. (Hons.) *(Minister of Innovation, Industry, Science and Technology)*

Senator the Hon. S. A. Archer, B.Sc. *(Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office – Youth and Culture)*

Senator J. A. King, J.P., B.S.S.

Senator Miss R. W. Trim, B.Sc.

Senator R. O. Alleyne, S.C., LL.B., M.B.A.

Senator Ms. K. N. Benjamin, J.P., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

Senator Miss J. C. A. Odle, LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., L.E.C.

Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers, B.Sc., B.A. (Hons.), M.Phil., Ph.D.

Senator A. W. Mallalieu, C.P.A., F.R.I.C.S.

Senator Dr. K. L. Connell, M.B.B.S., DM, Ph.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P., F.R.C.P.

Senator A. M. A. Niles, M.B.A.

Senator Ms. M.-A. Redman, B.A., Dip. Ed (Hons.)

Senator J. A. A. Slocombe, B.A., F.R.S.A.

Senator R. O. Walters, M.B.A.

Senator Ms. K. S. C. Goodridge, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

ABSENT

Her Honour Senator the Most Honourable Ms. H. E. Thompson, FB, LL.B., L.E.C., M.B.A. (Dist.), LL.M. *(Deputy President),* Senator the Hon. C. P. Sinckler, B.A., M.Sc. *(Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and* Senator R. G. deB. Forde, B.B.S., M.Sc.

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers.

OBITUARY

The Senate observed a moment of silence as a mark of respect on the passing of former Senator Mr. Erskine R. Griffith, G.C.M, J.P.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President announced that he was in receipt of excuses for absence from Her Honour Senator the Most Honourable Ms. H. E. Thompson, Senator the Hon. C. P. Sinckler and Senator R. G. deB. Forde.

He also announced that he was in receipt of excuses from Senator the Most Honourable Mr. J. X. Walcott and Senator the Hon. J. W. D. Reid.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings of Wednesday, 19th August, 2026 and Wednesday, 23rd September, 2026 were confirmed on the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins by command laid:

1. Custom Regulations, 2026; and
2. 2025 Annual Report of the Department of Emergency Management for the period January 1 to December 31, 2025.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins Standing Order 45(2) was suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY DEPUTY PRESIDENT

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins, Senator A. W. Mallalieu was appointed temporary Deputy President for the remainder of the Sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins, the Bills following were read a first time.

1. The Administation of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2026; and
2. The Virtual Asset Service Providers Bill, 2026.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4

VIRTUAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS BILL, 2026

On the Order being called for Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for the regulation of persons carrying on the business of providing virtual asset services in, or to persons in, Barbados,

the Hon. Member spoke and moved that the Bill be read a second time.

Senator R. O. Walters began to speak.

Mr. President spoke.

Senator R. O. Walters resumed his speech.

Mr. President spoke.

Senator R. O. Walters resumed his speech.

Mr. President spoke.

Senator R. O. Walters concluded his speech.

Senator A. W. Mallalieu spoke.

Senator R. O. Alleyne spoke.

Senator Ms. K. S. C. Goodridge spoke.

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Honourable the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator A. W. Mallalieu in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Part 1 (clauses 1 to 3); Part 2 (clauses 4 to 5); Part 3 (clauses 6 to 17); Part 4 (clauses 18 to 22); Part 5 (clauses 24 to 28) and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Chairman of Committees reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to the President who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT THE GARRISON, ST. MICHAEL TO THE BARBADOS NATIONAL ART GALLERY

Senator the Hon. S. A. Archer spoke on the Resolution following and moved the passing thereof:

RESOLVED that Parliament in accordance with section 5 of the *Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act*, Cap. 225, approve the lease to the Barbados National Art Gallery of a parcel of land, the property of the State, situate at the Garrison in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island and more particularly described in the *First Schedule* on the terms and conditions set out in the *Second Schedule* for the purpose of headquarters and to house the Barbados National Art Gallery.

APPROVED by the House of Assembly the 29th day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

FIRST SCHEDULE

ALL THAT land the property of the State situate at "BLOCK A", the Garrison in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement 4035.2 square metres or thereabouts abutting and bounding on a public road on two sides which leads to Garrison Road and to Dalkeith Road in one direction and to Graydon Sealy Secondary School and to Dayrells Road in the other direction on lands now or formerly of the Barbados Government (Block B) and on other lands now or formerly of the Barbados Government (Pavement) or however else the same may abut and bound as shown and delineated on a Plan certified on the 28th day of November, 2023 by Kevin R. Belgrave, Land Surveyor and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on the 1st day of December, 2023 as Plan No. 1899/2023 together with the building thereon.

SECOND SCHEDULE

The lease to the Barbados National Art Gallery ("the lessee") of the property of the State ("the lessor") situate at the Garrison in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island and more particularly described in the *First Schedule* is on the following terms and conditions:

(a) the lease shall be for a period of 25 years with an option to renew for a further period of 25 years;

(b) an initial concessionary rent at a rate of $6000 per annum during the first 5 years of the lease, payable monthly in advance at a rate of $500 per month;

(c) rent shall be subject to review at 5-yearly intervals;

(d) the lease shall have a 5-year notice break clause exercisable after the second rent review allowing either party to bring it to an end;

SECOND SCHEDULE - *(Con't)*

(e) notwithstanding paragraph *(d),* where the lease is brought to an end by the lessor because of a need for it to resume ownership, the lessee shall be compensated for the market renovated costs, less any depreciation at the date of resumption;

(f) the lessee shall be responsible for the insurance of the building, public liability and occupiers' liability at the demised premises, the repairs and maintenance of the building, the payment of utilities and other outgoings arising out of the use of the site;

(g) the lessee shall bear the cost of development of the demised premises and shall comply with the *Planning and Development Act, 2019* (Act 2019-5) any other statutory requirements;

(h) the lessee shall advise the Ministry responsible for Housing, Lands and Maintenance of the replacement cost of the building and plant on the demised premises on completion of the refurbishment or improvements;

(i) the lessor shall be indemnified against all actions, costs, claims and demands in respect of any injury to or death of any person or damage to any property which may arise directly or indirectly as a result of the lessee's use of the demised premises;

(j) the lessee shall not assign, sublet or otherwise dispose of the demised premises by lease or part with possession without the prior written consent of the lessor, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld; and

(k) at the end of the lease period or its earlier determination, the building, structures and other facilities and improvements, regardless of stage of construction, shall revert to the lessor for nil consideration.

Senator R. O. Walters spoke.
Senator. J. A. A. Slocombe spoke.
Senator J. A. King spoke.
Senator Dr. K. L. Connell spoke.
Senator R. O. Alleyne spoke.
Senator A. W. Mallalieu began to speak.
Senator. J. A. A. Slocombe spoke on a point of elucidation.
Senator A. W. Mallalieu concluded his speech.
Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers spoke.
Senator the Hon. S. A. Archer began his reply.
Mr. President directed that Senator the Hon. S. A. Archer withdraw certain remarks and that they be struck from the record.
Senator the Hon. S. A. Archer withdrew the remarks and concluded his speech.
The Resolution was passed.

ORDER NO. 5

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LAND AT GOODLAND, ST. MICHAEL TO COLLIS CROOKENDALE

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins spoke and move the passing of the following Resolution:

RESOLVED that Parliament in accordance with section 5 of the *Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act*, Cap. 225, approve the sale to Collis Crookendale of a parcel of land, the property of the State, situate at 3rd Avenue, Goodland in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island and more particularly described in the *Schedule* for continual residential purposes.

APPROVED by the House of Assembly this 6th day of October, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT land the property of the State situate at 3rd Avenue, Goodland in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island being Lot 2 containing by admeasurement 35.42 square metres (including 1.66 square metres in road) or thereabouts abutting and bounding on a public road known as 3rd Avenue, Goodland which leads to Lower Richmond in one direction and to Alkins Tenantry in the other direction on two sides of lands now or formerly of the Barbados Government (St. Leonard's Boys School) and on Lot 1 or however else the same may abut and bound as shown and delineated on a Plan certified on the 17th day of July, 2025 by Kevin R. Belgrave, Land Surveyor and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on the 21st day of July, 2025 as Plan No. 1200/2025.

The Resolution was passed.

ORDER NO. 1

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORY ACQUIRE LAND AT EBENEZER, SAINT PHILIP FROM THE EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins who spoke, the following Resolution was passed.

RESOLVED that Parliament in accordance with section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, approve the compulsory acquisition by the State of the parcel of land the property of The Ebenezer Methodist Church situate at Ebenezer in the parish of Saint Philip in this Island and more particularly described in the Schedule hereto for the public purpose of housing development.

APPROVED by the House of Assembly the 11th day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT land the property of The Ebenezer Methodist Church situate at Ebenezer in the parish of Saint Philip in this Island containing by admeasurement 8940.7 square metres Abutting and Bounding on lands now or late of Syndey Forde on lands now or late of Clyde Sealy on lands now or late of Dawnay Lashley and on a public road known as Highway 4B which leads to Sunbury Tenantry in one direction and to Highway 5 in the other direction on lands now or formerly of Edgecumbe Plantation (Cart Road) on other lands now or formerly of Edgecumbe Plantation or however else the same may abut and bound as shown and delineated on a plan certified by Sekani H. C. Franklin, Land Surveyor, on the 30th day of September, 2024 and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on the 16th day of October, 2024 as Plan No. 1662/2024.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS (recommmitted)

Senator J. A. A. Slocombe gave notice of the following question;

To ask the Minister of Innovation, Industry, Science and Technology

1. Is the Minister aware that in recent months, there have increasing reports from members of the public, households and businesses regarding challenges with telecommunications services, *inter alia* dropped mobile calls, intermittent or weak mobile signals, loss of connectivity, apparent coverage gaps, recurring interruptions and inconsistent speeds to broadband internet services?

   (a) If the Minister is aware, will he state:

      (i) whether the Government has undertaken, a comprehensive assessment of the quality, reliability, capacity and geographical coverage of telecommunications services inclusive of mobile and fixed broadband services across Barbados.

      (ii) If so, what are the findings of that assessment?

      (iii) whether all the telecommunications providers are currently meeting the regulatory and quality-of-service standards for mobile and broadband services and if not, what are Government's plans to improve the reliability and quality of telecommunications services?

   (b) Will the Minister state whether the telecommunications providers have been required to submit reports identifying the causes and frequency of mobile and Broadband service interruptions, together with the measures being taken to prevent their recurrence?

   (c) Will the Minister state whether the Government has assessed the extent to which the households and businesses across Barbados, dependent on telecommunications services, have been affected by the unreliability and inconsistent broadband services. If not, what measures would be implemented to ensure that the services the consumers receive are reasonably commensurate with the services for which they are paying?

   (d) Will the Minister state what mechanisms currently exist to hold telecommunications providers accountable where consumers and businesses are paying for services that are repeatedly unreliable, interrupted, or unavailable?

   (e) Will the Minister outline the measures being implemented to ensure that Barbados possesses sufficiently resilient telecommunications infrastructure, contingency arrangements, network capacity and mechanisms to maintain essential communications during major outages or network failures?

   (f) Will the Minister indicate whether the Government has defined a timeframe within which the current mobile coverage, telecommunications reliability and broadband connectivity challenges would be substantially addressed?

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Senate was adjourned *sine die.*
At 3.28 p.m. Mr. President adjourned the Sitting.

N. R. JONES, K.C., J.P.
Deputy Clerk of Parliament.

The Minutes were certified correct and confirmed the day of , 2026.

President.

SENATE CHAMBERS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
BRIDGETOWN.

SENATE

FIRST SESSION OF 2026 – 2031

MINUTES

Wednesday, 14th October, 2026.

Government Printing Department.