



# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

## OF

# The Honourable the House of Assembly

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At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Parliament Buildings on Tuesday the 13th day of May, 2025, at 10.00 o'clock a.m. pursuant to the adjournment.

### PRESENT

Her Honour Miss C. Y. Forde, J.P., L.C.P. (*Deputy Speaker*)

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, S.C., LL.B. (*Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, Culture, National Security, Public Service, CARICOM and the Development Commissions*)

Hon. D. D. Marshall, S.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (*Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*) (*Senior Minister*)

Mr. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A.

Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. (*Senior Minister*) (*Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*)

Hon. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.) (*Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance*)

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (*Deputy Prime Minister*) (*Senior Minister*) (*Minister of Transport and Works*) (*Leader of Government Business*)

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, S.C., LL.B. (*Minister of Home Affairs and Information*)

Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (*Minister of Training and Tertiary Education*) (*Acting Minister of Educational Transformation* *wef 6th May, 2025*)

Mr. R. A. Thorne, K.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology (*Leader of the Opposition*)

Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. (*Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security*)

Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. (*Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy*)

Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. (*Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment*)

Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. (*Chairman of Committees*)

Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill (*Minister of Tourism and International Transport*)

Hon. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) (*Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector*)

Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S.

Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A. (*Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs*)

Hon. R. R. Straughn, B.Sc., M.Sc. (*Minister in the Ministry of Finance*)

Ms. M. K-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc.

Mr. N. G. H. Rowe, J.P.

Hon. Miss K. S. McConney (*Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment*)

Dr. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. (*Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Works*)

Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness*)

**ABSENT**

His Honour A. E. Holder, S.C., B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (*Speaker*), Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, J.P., B.D.S., F.D.S., F.D.R.C.S., M. Min. (*Senior Minister*)(*Minister of Planning and Development in the Prime Minister's Office*), Ms. T. N. S-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A., Mr. C. A. Lane, J.P. and Mr. C. D. L. Gibbs.

The absence of His Honour the Speaker was announced.

Madam Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair.

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24th April, 2025 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. M Humphrey.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**  
Madam Deputy Speaker read the following:

**MESSAGE**

**From**

**THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE**

**To**

**THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Honourable the Senate has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that at its sitting on **Wednesday 30th April, 2025** the **Seaport Industry (Management, Operations and Development) Bill, 2025** was amended in the following terms:

**Clause 36.** the word '*home-porting*' appearing before the word 'vessels' was deleted.

**AND** the Honourable the Senate transmits the amended Bill to the Honourable the House of Assembly inviting concurrence in the amendments to the Bill.

**Dated the 30th day of April, 2025.**



**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

**MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

Madam Deputy Speaker read the following:

**STATE HOUSE  
BARBADOS**

**Ref. No. PB: 25/S.1 Vol. I**

**26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

***His Honour  
The Speaker  
The House of Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Bridgetown***

***Dear Sir,***

***With reference to the Address submitted to me by the Honourable the House of Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 and presented to me on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, requesting the issue of a Writ for an election to fill the vacant seat for the constituency of Saint James North, I wish to inform that I have today, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 issued the appropriate Writ in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 (2) of the Constitution and Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12.***

***On the advice of the Prime Minister, the day of nomination of candidates has been fixed for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 and the day upon which, if necessary, the poll shall be taken has been fixed for Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025. The Writ is returnable to me by Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025.***

***Yours faithfully,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. A. M.'.

**PRESIDENT**



STATE HOUSE  
BARBADOS

Ref. No. PB: 2/S. 1A

*1<sup>st</sup> May, 2025*

*Dear Mr. Speaker,*

*I shall be away from the island on duty leave during the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.*

*In accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of the Constitution, the Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Douglas Gibson, will perform the functions of the Office of the President during my absence.*

*As The Honourable The House of Assembly will not be meeting prior to my departure, it will not be possible for the usual formal Message to be sent to your Chamber. Will you, therefore, please bring my absence formally to the attention of The Honourable The House of Assembly when next it meets.*

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Douglas Gibson'.

PRESIDENT

*His Honour  
The Speaker of The House of Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
BRIDGETOWN*

## **PAPERS**

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw by command laid:

- Barbados Deposit Insurance Corporation (BDIC) – Annual Reports for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

## **GOVERNMENT NOTICES**

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw gave notice of:

1. Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2025; and
2. Resolution that the Honourable the House of Assembly concur in the amendments made by the Honourable the Senate to the Seaport Industry (Management, Operations and Development) Bill, 2025.

## **FIRST READINGS OF BILLS**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael, the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2025 was read a first time.

## **CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES**

Madam Deputy Speaker congratulated Rev. Canon Mark Harewood on his appointment as a Canon.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the motion of the Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael, Standing Orders 6,16,18,20,42(5),43 and 44 were suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **ORDER NO. 5**

### **STUDENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND BILL, 2025**

On the Order being called for Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for the grant of loans to finance studies at educational institutions, the management and administration of the Student Revolving Loan Fund, the conditions of service for employees of the Student Revolving Loan Fund Board and related matters, the Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. R. A. Thorne began to speak.

Madam Deputy Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

Madam Deputy Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

Madam Deputy Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

Madam Deputy Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed and concluded his speech.

Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey spoke.

Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 33 with the approval of the Chair were called in parts and passed on the separate motion of Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

The First and Second Schedules were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

On the motion of Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to Madam Deputy Speaker who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 13**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the following Resolution was passed.

RESOLVED that the Honourable the House of Assembly concur in the amendment made by the Honourable the Senate to the Seaport Industry (Management, Operations and Development) Bill, 2025.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HER HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Madam Deputy Speaker read the following:



**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, TRIDENT HOUSE, BROAD STREET**  
**BRIDGETOWN, ST. MICHAEL.**  
 Tel No. 1 (246) 536-0851 Email: [Ombudsman@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Ombudsman@barbados.gov.bb)

**Ref. No: 005/6**

**Date: May 13, 2025**

*When replying to this correspondence  
 Please quote the Reference Number  
 shown above*

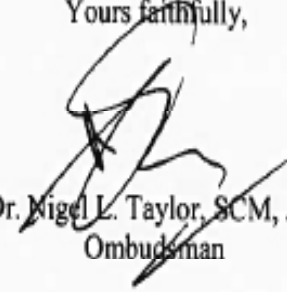
His Honour The Speaker  
 The House of Assembly  
 Parliament Buildings  
 Bridgetown

Dear Mr. Speaker,

It is my pleasure to submit to you the reports of the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman for the period January 01, 2020 to December 31, 2022 along with that of 2023.

The submission is made in keeping with Section 13(6) of the Ombudsman Act, CAP 8A of the Laws of Barbados which states that a general report on the functions of the Ombudsman shall be prepared and submitted for laying before each House of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

  
 Dr. Nigel L. Taylor, SCM, J.P.  
 Ombudsman

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 27th May, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

At 2.25 p.m. Madam Deputy Speaker adjourned the Sitting.

N. R. JONES, Q.C.  
Deputy Clerk of Parliament.

The Minutes were certified correct and confirmed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
BRIDGETOWN.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST SESSION OF 2022 – 2027**

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**MINUTES**

Tuesday, 13th May, 2025.

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Government Printing Department.