



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 18th day of November, 2025, at 10.00 o'clock a.m. pursuant to the adjournment.

PRESENT

- His Honour A. E. Holder, S.C., B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (*Speaker*)
His Honour N. G. H. Rowe, J.P. (*Deputy Speaker*)
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| Miss C. Y. Forde, J.P., L.C.P. | Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. (<i>Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy</i>) |
| Hon. D. D. Marshall, S.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (<i>Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs</i>) (<i>Senior Minister</i>) | Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. (<i>Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment</i>) |
| Mr. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A. | Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. (<i>Chairman of Committees</i>) |
| Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. (<i>Senior Minister</i>) (<i>Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade</i>) | Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill (<i>Minister of Tourism and International Transport</i>) |
| Mr. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.) | Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A. (<i>Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs</i>) |
| Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (<i>Deputy Prime Minister</i>) (<i>Senior Minister</i>) (<i>Minister of Transport and Works</i>) (<i>Leader of Government Business</i>) | Hon. R. R. Straughn, B.Sc., M.Sc. (<i>Minister in the Ministry of Finance</i>) |
| Hon. W. A. Abrahams, S.C., LL.B. (<i>Minister of Home Affairs and Information</i>) | Ms. M. K-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc. |
| Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (<i>Minister of Training and Tertiary Education</i>) | Hon. Miss K. S. McConney (<i>Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment</i>) |
| Mr. R. A. Thorne, K.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology (<i>Leader of the Opposition</i>) | Dr. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. (<i>Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Works</i>) |
| Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. (<i>Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security</i>) | Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. (<i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness</i>) |
| | Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs (<i>Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance</i>) |
| | Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. (<i>Minister of Educational Transformation</i>) |

ABSENT

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, S.C., LL.B. (*Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security and the Public Service, CARICOM and the Development Commissions*), 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*), Hon. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) (*Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector*), Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S., Ms. T. N. S-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A. and Mr. C. A. Lane, J.P.

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday, 16th September, 2025 and Tuesday, 28th October, 2025 were taken as read and were confirmed on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4th November, 2025 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Speaker read:

**STATE HOUSE
BARBADOS**

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

5th November, 2025

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I wish to inform that I shall be away from the island on Thursday, 6th November, 2025 on vacation leave.

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 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 stylized signature in black ink, appearing to read '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:

- Loan Agreement No. 2/854 – Urban Renewal Project in the Water, Housing and Infrastructure Sector (Phase I) Between the Saudi Fund for Development and the Government of Barbados.
- Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Sanitation Service Authority) (No. 2) Order, 2025.
- Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Atiba Aluko) Order, 2025.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Bills following were read a first time:

1. The Companies (Economic Substance) (Repeal) Bill, 2025.
2. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
3. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
4. The Parliament (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2025.
5. The Final Appropriation (2022-2023) Bill, 2025.
6. The Final Appropriation (2023-2024) Bill, 2025.
7. The Final Appropriation (2024-2025) Bill, 2025; and
8. The Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. R. R. Straughn made a Statement on the Mid-Year Review, April 2025 - September 2025, pursuant to the Public Finance Management Act, 2019.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10

COMPANIES (ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE) (REPEAL) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Hon. R. R. Straughn to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to repeal the *Companies (Economic Substance) Act*, (Act 2019-43), the Hon. Member sought and obtained leave to introduce Orders Nos. 10 and 11 in a cognate debate.

The Honourable Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. R. A. Thorne began to speak.

Mr. Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

The Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

Mr. Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne resumed his speech.

Mr. Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne concluded his speech.

Hon. R. R. Straughn spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, without debate.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds 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. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 11
INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Hon. R. R. Straughn to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to amend the *Income Tax Act*, Cap. 73,

the Hon. Member moved, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds that the Bill be read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds without debate.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds 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. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 14
FINAL APPROPRIATION (2022-2023) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Hon. R. R. Straughn to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the services of the Island for the Financial Year that ended 31st March, 2023,

the Hon. Member sought and obtained leave to introduce Orders Nos. 14, 15 and 16 in a cognate debate.

The Honourable Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds that the Bill read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, without debate.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds 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. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 15
FINAL APPROPRIATION (2023-2024) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Hon. R. R. Straughn to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the services of the Island for the Financial Year that ended 31st March, 2024,

the Hon. Member moved, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds that the Bill be read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, without debate.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds 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. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 16
FINAL APPROPRIATION (2024-2025) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Hon. R. R. Straughn to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the services of the Island for the Financial Year that ended 31st March, 2025, the Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds that the Bill be read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, without debate.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds 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. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Hon. Miss. S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 25th November, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

At 1.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker adjourned the Sitting.

N. R. JONES, K.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

MINUTES

Tuesday, 18th November, 2025.

Government Printing Department.