



# 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 9th day of June, 2026, 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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| Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, S.C., LL.B. ( <i>Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development, Minister of National Security</i> ) | Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, J.P. ( <i>Minister of Tourism and International Transport</i> )                            |
| Hon. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A. ( <i>Minister in the Prime Minister's Office – Pan African Affairs and Heritage</i> )                        | Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S.                                                                                                |
| Mr. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.)                                                                                          | Hon. R. R. Straughn, B.Sc., M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Finance</i> )                                                          |
| Dr. W. F. Duguid, J.P., B.D.S., F.D.S., F.D.R.C.S., M. Min.                                                                                 | Hon. Ms. M. K.-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc. ( <i>Minister in the Prime Minister's Office – Economic Affairs and Planning</i> )  |
| Hon. W. A. Abrahams, S.C., LL.B., L.E.C. ( <i>Senior Minister</i> ) ( <i>Attorney General</i> )                                             | Dr. the Hon. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. ( <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Works</i> )              |
| Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Technological and Vocational Training</i> )                                | Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness</i> )                     |
| Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. ( <i>Minister of Public and Private Investment</i> )                                                                | Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs ( <i>Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance</i> )                                                 |
| Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. ( <i>Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs</i> )                                                          | Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. ( <i>Minister of Education Transformation</i> )                         |
| Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Sports and Community Empowerment</i> )                                                        | Hon. M. A. Lashley, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C, ( <i>Minister of Legal Affairs and Criminal Justice</i> )                       |
| Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. ( <i>Chairman of Committees</i> )                                                                                  | Dr. the Hon. S. M. Munro-Knight, Ph.D. ( <i>Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security</i> )                  |
|                                                                                                                                             | Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., MCI Arb. ( <i>Minister of Home Affairs and Information</i> ) |
|                                                                                                                                             | Mr. R. R. Brathwaite, J.P., B.Sc.                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                             | Ms. T. Trotman, LL.B., L.E.C.                                                                                             |

**ABSENT**

Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. (*Senior Minister*) (*Minister of Energy, Business Development and Commerce*), Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B.(Hons.), L.E.C. (*Deputy Prime Minister*)(*Minister of Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries*) (*Leader of Government Business*), Hon. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) (*Minister of Labour, Social Security and the Third Sector*), Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A. (*Senior Minister*)(*Minister of Transport and Works*), Ms. T. N. S.-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A. and Hon. Miss K. S. McConney (*Minister of the Public Service and Talent Development*)

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 8th May, 2026 were taken as read and were confirmed on the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 29th May, 2026 were deferred on the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER**

Mr. Speaker announced that he was in receipt from the Ombudsman, Dr. Nigel L. Taylor, SCM, J.P., his Report for the periods January 1 to December 31, 2024 and January 1 to December 31, 2025, pursuant to Section 13(6) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A of the Laws of Barbados.

**MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Speaker read the following:



STATE HOUSE  
BARBADOS

MESSAGE No. \_\_\_\_/2026

*HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT*

*TO*

*THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY*

*His Excellency the President wishes to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that he will be absent from the country on leave for the period 10<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.*

*His Excellency further wishes to inform, The Honourable The House of Assembly that, 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 His Excellency's absence.*

  
**PRESIDENT**

STATE HOUSE  
BARBADOS.

8<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

## **PAPERS**

Hon. W. A. Abrahams laid the following:

- Barbados Civil Aviation Authority Annual Report, 2025.
- ILO Convention 191 – Safe and Healthy Working Environment (Consequential Amendments) Convention, 2023.
- ILO Convention 192 – Biological Hazards in the Working Environment Convention, 2025 (No. 192).
- Recommendation 209 – Biological Hazards in the Working Environment Recommendation, 2025 (No. 209).

## **GOVERNMENT NOTICES**

Hon. W. A. Abrahams gave notice of:

- Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2026.

## **FIRST READINGS OF BILLS**

On the separate motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, the Bills following were read a first time:

- Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and
- Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2026.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **ORDER NO. 5**

#### **SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026**

On the Order being called for Hon. M. A. Lashley to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Cap. 117A to:

- (a) increase the number of Judges in the High Court;
- (b) establish a Firearms Division of the High Court; and
- (c) provide for related matters,

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

## **SUSPENSION**

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, the Sitting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. to 12.20 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION**

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

### **ORDER NO. 5 (resumed)**

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley spoke.

Hon. C. J. Blackman spoke.

Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill spoke.

Ms. T. Trotman spoke.

Hon. R. R. Straughn spoke.

Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls spoke.

Hon. M. A. Lashley spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. Lashley seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. M. A. Lashley, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. Lashley, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams 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. M. A. Lashley, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

**PAPERS (recommitted)**

Hon. W. A. Abrahams laid the following:

- ILO Convention 152 – Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention, 1979 (No. 152).
- Recommendation 160 – Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Recommendation, 1979 (No. 160).
- ILO Convention 159 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), Convention, 1983 (No. 159).
- Recommendation 168 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Recommendation, 1983 (No. 168).

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 16th June, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

At 2.10 p.m. Mr. Speaker adjourned the Sitting.

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

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

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
BRIDGETOWN.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST SESSION OF 2026 – 2031**

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**MINUTES**

Tuesday, 9th June, 2026.

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Government Printing Department.