



# 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 12th day of August, 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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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, S.C., LL.B. ( <i>Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security and the Public Service, CARICOM and the Development Commissions</i> )                             | Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. ( <i>Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security</i> )                     |
| 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> )                   |
| Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. ( <i>Senior Minister</i> ) ( <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade</i> )                                                                               | Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. ( <i>Chairman of Committees</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. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) ( <i>Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector</i> )              |
| Hon. W. A. Abrahams, S.C., LL.B. ( <i>Minister of Home Affairs and Information</i> )                                                                                                               | Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A. ( <i>Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs</i> )      |
| Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Training and Tertiary Education</i> )                                                                                             | Ms. M. K-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc.                                                                               |
| Mr. R. A. Thorne, K.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology ( <i>Leader of the Opposition</i> )                                                                                                           | Ms. T. N. S-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A.                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Dr. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. ( <i>Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Works</i> )     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness</i> )         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mr. C. A. Lane, J.P.                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mr. C. D. L. Gibbs                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. ( <i>Minister of Educational Transformation</i> )           |

**ABSENT**

Mr. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A., Hon. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.) (*Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance*), 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. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill (*Minister of Tourism and International Transport*), Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S., Hon. R. R. Straughn, B.Sc., M.Sc. (*Minister in the Ministry of Finance*) and Hon. Miss K. S. McConney (*Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment*).

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

**MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Speaker read the following:



**STATE HOUSE  
BARBADOS**

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

**8<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

***Dear Mr. Speaker,***

***I wish to inform that I shall be away from Office during the period 10<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 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 the start of my vacation leave, 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***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER**

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1st July, 2025 were taken as read and were confirmed on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 8th August, 2025 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds.

### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

Hon. C. J. Blackman read a statement on Barbados' Education Transformation Agenda.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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

### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

#### **ORDER NO. 6**

#### **FAMILY LEAVE BILL, 2025**

On the Order being called for Hon. C. E. Jordan to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for family leave for male and female employees, access for the parents of the child to have leave together at the birth of the child or during the essential early months of development and to provide for related matters,

the Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. C. McD. Griffith, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. R. A. Thorne began to speak.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw spoke on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker spoke.

Mr. R. A. Thorne concluded his speech.

### **SUSPENSION**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Sitting was suspended at 2.00 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION**

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

#### **ORDER NO. 6 (resumed)**

Ms. M. K-A. Caddle spoke.

Ms. T. N. S-A. Moore spoke.

Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey spoke.

Hon. A. R. Forde spoke.

Hon. C. E. Jordan spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

Clauses 1 to 8 were called and passed on the motion of Hon. C. E. Jordan, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

Clauses 9 to 16 were called and passed on the motion of Hon. C. E. Jordan, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

The Schedule as amended was called and passed on the motion of Hon. C. E. Jordan, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. Jordan 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. C. E. Jordan seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

### **SUSPENSION**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Sitting was suspended at 6.05 p.m. to 6.10 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION**

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

**ORDER NO. 10**  
**IMMIGRATION BILL, 2025**

On the Order being called for Hon. W. A. Abrahams to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to revise the law regulating the entry of persons into Barbados and to provide for related matters, the Hon. Member sought and obtained leave to introduce the Bill in a cognate debate with Order No. 9.

Hon. W. A. Abrahams spoke and moved seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael that the Bills be read a second time and that further consideration be postponed and the Bills be referred to the Joint Select Committee (Standing) on Governance and Policy Matters.

The motion was passed.

**REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES (recommitted)**

Mr. Speaker announced that he was in receipt of the following Report:

**REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Committee comprising:

His Honour N. G. H. Rowe, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker (Chairman (Ag.))

Hon. Miss K. S. McConney, M.P.

Hon. D. G. Sutherland, M.P.

Hon D. I. Ishmael, M.P.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, M.P.

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, M.P.

Ms. M. K-A. Caddle, M.P.

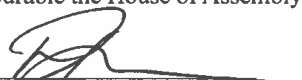
met on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to consider and to agree to the proposed amendment to the composition of the Joint Select Committees (Standing) by increasing it by one (1) Member from The Honourable the House of the Assembly, pursuant to Standing Order 58A(3) which reads as follows:

- Each Committee should consist of seven (7) members, from both Houses of Parliament, of whom four (4) shall be from the House of Assembly and of whom four (4) shall be a quorum. Each Committee shall elect a Government member as Chairman.

The Committee discussed the amendment and on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon Miss K. S. McConney, M.P. the amendment was adopted and is now incorporated into the Standing Orders of The Honourable the House of Assembly of Barbados made under the Constitution of Barbados (Section 50(1)). Standing Order 58 A(3) now reads as follows:

- Each Committee should consist of nine (9) members, from both Houses of Parliament, of whom five (5) shall be from the House of Assembly and of whom four (4) shall be a quorum. Each Committee shall elect a Government member as Chairman.

The Committee is therefore pleased to present the amendment as that of worthy commendation and supports the adoption by The Honourable the House of Assembly.

  
Chairman (Ag.)

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.**

The Report was adopted on the motion of the Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the persons following were appointed to the respective Committees following:

1. Committee on Governance and Policy Matters.  
Hon. C. J. Blackman
2. Committee on Economic and Productive Sectors.  
Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill
3. Committee on Social Sector and Environment.  
Hon. D. I. Ishmael

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Hon. Miss. S. J. O. Bradshaw who spoke, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 16th September, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

At 7.26 p.m. Mr. 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, 12th August, 2025.

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Government Printing Department.