



# 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 Friday, the 8th day of May, 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> )   | Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. ( <i>Chairman of Committees</i> )   |
| Hon. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A. ( <i>Minister in the Prime Minister's Office – Pan African Affairs and Heritage</i> )   | Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, J.P. ( <i>Minister of Tourism and International Transport</i> )                           |
| Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. ( <i>Senior Minister</i> ) ( <i>Minister of Energy, Business Development and Commerce</i> )   | Hon. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) ( <i>Minister of Labour, Social Security and the Third Sector</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>Senior Minister</i> ) ( <i>Minister of Transport and Works</i> )       |
| Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. ( <i>Deputy Prime Minister</i> ) ( <i>Minister of Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries</i> ) ( <i>Leader of Government Business</i> ) | 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>Attorney General</i> )   | Ms. T. N. S.-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A.  |
| Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Technological and Vocational Training</i> )   | Hon. Miss K. S. McConney ( <i>Minister of the Public Service and Talent Development</i> )                                |
| Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. ( <i>Minister of Public and Private Investment</i> )   | Dr. the Hon. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. ( <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Works</i> )             |
| Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. ( <i>Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs</i> )   | Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. ( <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness</i> )                    |
| Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. ( <i>Minister of Sports and Community Empowerment</i> )   | Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs ( <i>Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance</i> )  |
|  | Hon. M. A. Lashley, LL.B (Hons.) ( <i>Minister of Legal Affairs and Criminal Justice</i> )                               |
|  | Dr. the Hon. S. M. Munro-Knight, Ph.D. ( <i>Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security</i> )                 |
|  | Mr. R. R. Brathwaite, J.P., B.Sc.  |
|  | Ms. T. Trotman, LL.B., L.E.C.  |

**ABSENT**

Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S., Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. (*Minister of Education Transformation*) and Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., MCI Arb. (*Minister of Home Affairs and Information*).

**PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29th April, 2026 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

**PAPERS**

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

- Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Aircraft and Aviation Services Company Ltd. for the years ending March 31, 2024 and March 31, 2025.
- Corporation Top-Up Tax (Designation of Competent Authority and Globe Information Returns) Regulations, 2026.

**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.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)**

Resolution that the Honourable the House:

- (a) supports the establishment of a National Portable Benefits framework through the National Insurance Social Security Service that ensures that social security follows the worker, and not the job;
- (b) calls for the development and implementation of the supporting administrative, technological and enforcement measures necessary to ensure that the framework is effective, equitable and accessible;
- (c) commits Barbados, in its fifth year as a Republic, to affirming that Portable Benefits constitute an act of nation-building and a people-centred investment in fairness, resilience and social stability, so that no worker is rendered invisible, and no worker is left behind.

Hon. Ms. M. K.-A. Caddle spoke.

Hon. Miss K. S. McConney spoke.

Hon. W. A. Abrahams spoke.

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey further consideration of the Resolution was suspended.

**SUSPENSION**

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Sitting was suspended at 11.47 a.m. to 11.55 a.m.

**RESUMPTION**

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (resumed)**

**ORDER NO. 1 (resumed)**

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands further consideration of the Resolution was postponed.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****ORDER NO. 6****MARITIME AREAS (JURISDICTION AND RIGHTS) BILL, 2026**

On the Order being called for Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for the establishment of maritime areas, jurisdiction, rights and related matters,

the Hon. Member sought and obtained leave to introduce the Bill together with Order No. 7 in a cognate debate.

The Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. A. R. Forde who reserved the right to speak that the Bill be read a second time.

**SUSPENSION**

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams the Sitting was suspended at 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

**RESUMPTION**

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

**ORDER NO. 6 (resumed)**

Hon. K. D. Symmonds spoke.

Hon. C. E. Jordan spoke.

Hon. A. R. Forde spoke.

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

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

On the separate motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, Part 1 (Clauses 1 to 4); Part 2 (Clauses 5 to 14); Part 3 (Clauses 15 to 21); Part 4 (Clauses 22 to 50); Part 5 (Clauses 51 to 64) and Part 6 (Clauses 65 to 81) were called and passed.

On the separate motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams Part 7 (Clauses 82 to 89) and Part 8 (Clauses 90 to 106) were passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, 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. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

**ORDER NO. 7****SEAFARERS BILL, 2026**

On the Order being called for Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for international maritime standards for seafarers,

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

The Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan the House went into Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

On the separate motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, Part 1 (Clauses 1 to 11); Part 2 (Clauses 12 to 31); Part 3 (Clauses 32 to 41); Part 4 (Clauses 42 to 78); Part 5 (Clauses 79 to 168) and Part 6 (Clauses 169 to 199) were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan, Part 7 (Clauses 200 to 218) was passed.

On the separate motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. K. D. Symmonds, Part 8 (Clauses 219 to 254), Part 9 (Clauses 255 to 258); Part 10 (Clauses 259 to 276) and Part 11 (Clauses 277 to 283) were called and passed.

On the separate motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan, Part 12 (Clauses 284 to 290) and Part 13 (Clauses 291 to 304) were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams Part 14 (Clauses 305 to 310 (as amended)) was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan, Part 15 (Clauses 311 to 385) was called and passed.

The First to the Seventeenth Schedules inclusive were called and passed on the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. C. E. Jordan 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. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams 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. W. A. Abrahams, the House was adjourned to Tuesday, 19th May, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

At 4.56 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
BRIDGETOWN.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST SESSION OF 2026 – 2031**

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**MINUTES**

Friday, 8th May, 2026.

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Government Printing Department.