



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 31st day of March, 2026, at 10.00 o'clock a.m. pursuant to the adjournment.

PRESENT

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>) | Hon. C. E. Jordan, B.Sc. (Hons.) (<i>Minister of Labour, Social Security and The Third Sector</i>) |
| Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. (<i>Senior Minister</i>) (<i>Minister of Energy, Business Development and Commerce</i>) | Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S. |
| 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>) | Dr. the Hon. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. (<i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Works</i>) |
| Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. (<i>Minister of Public and Private Investment</i>) | Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. (<i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness</i>) |
| Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. (<i>Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs</i>) | Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs (<i>Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance</i>) |
| Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. (<i>Minister of Sports and Community Empowerment</i>) | Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. (<i>Minister of Educational Transformation</i>) |
| Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. (<i>Chairman of Committees</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>) |
| | 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

His Honour A. E. Holder, S.C., B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (*Speaker*), Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (*Minister of Technological and Vocational Training*), 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*).

The Clerk announced the absence of His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair.

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2nd March, 2026 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

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. 2

STATE (ACQUISITION AND VESTING OF PROPERTY) BILL, 2026

On the Order being called for Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide for the acquisition by the State pursuant to section 16(4) of the Constitution in the public interest of certain properties owned by the National Housing Corporation and the vesting of the properties in the persons who qualify under the National Housing Corporation (Transfer of Terrace Units) Act, 2013 (Act 2013-1) for the transfer of ownership of the properties to them, the Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams that the Bill be read a second time.

Hon. R. R. Straughn spoke.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw spoke.

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

Hon. K. D. Symmonds spoke.

Hon. A. R. Forde spoke.

SUSPENSION

On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Sitting was suspended at 12.49 p.m. to 2.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

OBITUARY

Mr. Deputy Speaker spoke.

The House observed a moment of silence in memory on the passing of Anthony Harper.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (resumed)

ORDER NO. 2 (resumed)

Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey spoke.

Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs spoke in reply.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

Clauses 1 to 5 and the Schedule were called and passed on the separate motion of Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey.

On the motion of Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey the Chairman reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to Mr. Deputy Speaker who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey 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 2.50 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

PAPERS (recommitted)

Hon D. I. Ishmael by command laid:

- Health Services (Disposal of Abandoned Bodies) Regulations 2026.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (recommitted)

Hon. R. R. Straughn gave notice of the following:

- Resolution to grant the sum of FIFTY-TWO MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2025–2026 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 3, 2025–2026 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (resumed)

ORDER NO. 5

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael, the House resolved itself into Standing Finance Committee, Mr. P. R. Phillips in the Chair.

Hon. R. R. Straughn spoke on the following Resolution:

RESOLVED that the sum of FIFTY-TWO MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS be granted from the Consolidated Fund and be placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2025-2026 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 3, 2025-2026 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

SCHEDULE

Supplementary Estimates 2025 – 2026 No. 3

HEAD	Code Number	Provision in Approved Estimates 2025 – 2026	Provision in Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1– 2	Supplementary Provision Required
		Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure
HEAD 13 – PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE Program 636: Urban and Rural Development Subprogram 0265: Rural and Urban Development Commission <i>Account Code: 416 – Capital Grants to Public Institutions</i>	136360265	\$ 6,127,000	\$	\$ 4,900,000
HEAD 14 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE Program 002: Financial Control & Treasury Management Subprogram 0131: Accountant General’s Office <i>Account Code: 212 – Other Operating Expenses</i>	140020131	6,295,195		6,000,000

SCHEDULE – *Cont'd*Supplementary Estimates 2025 – 2026 No. 3 – *Cont'd*

HEAD	Code Number	Provision in Approved Estimates 2025 – 2026	Provision in Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1– 2	Supplementary Provision Required
		Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure
HEAD 14 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – <i>Cont'd</i>		\$	\$	\$
Program 040: Direction and Policy Formulation Services				
Subprogram 7010: General Management & Coordination Services	140407010			
<i>Account Code: 211 – Maintenance of Property</i>		6,427,545	896,802	840,375
Subprogram 0022: Contingencies	140400022			
<i>Account Code: 230 – Contingencies</i>		500,000	7,500,000	890,825
Program 113: Revenue Collection				
Subprogram 0133: Customs	141130133			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		2,595,666		544,482
<i>Account Code: 103 – Employer's Contributions</i>		1,606,127		88,712
Program 119: Lending				
Subprogram 0141: Loans and Advances	141190141			
<i>Account Code: 628 – Advances to Public Officers</i>		725,000		119,275
HEAD 15 – THE CABINET OFFICE				
Program 071: Constitutional and Statutory Authorities				
Subprogram 0073: Electoral and Boundaries Commission	150710073			
<i>Account Code: 212 – Other Operating Expenses</i>		295,850	2,000,000	6,069,690
HEAD 31 – MINISTRY OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY				
Program 084: Establishment of a GovTech Agency				
Subprogram 0311: Establishment of GovTech Agency	310840311			
<i>Account Code: 416 – Grants to Public Institutions</i>		2,738,000		1,524,000
Program 460: Investment, Industrial and Export Development				
Subprogram 0462: Barbados Investment and Development Corporation	314600462			
<i>Account Code: 416 – Grants to Public Institutions</i>		4,352,253		2,000,000

SCHEDULE – *Cont'd*Supplementary Estimates 2025 – 2026 No. 3 – *Cont'd*

HEAD	Code Number	Provision in Approved Estimates 2025 – 2026	Provision in Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1–2	Supplementary Provision Required
		Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure
HEAD 82 – MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATIONAL BEAUTIFICATION		\$	\$	\$
Program 163: Fisheries Management and Development				
Subprogram 0173: Fisheries Services	821630173			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		35,826		78,000
Program 164: General Support Services				
Subprogram 0385: Markets	821640385			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		110,661		424,000
Program 650: Preservation and Conservation of the Terrestrial and Marine Environment				
Subprogram 0409: Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit	826500409			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		10,151		40,000
Subprogram 0411: Environmental Protection Department	826500411			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		41,196		22,000
Subprogram 0555: Natural Heritage Department	826500555			
<i>Account Code: 102 – Other Personal Emoluments</i>		48,580		15,000
HEAD 84 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND THIRD SECTOR				
Program 120: Operations of NIS & Social Security				
Subprogram 0142: National Insurance Department	841200142			
<i>Account Code: 314 – Grants to Individuals</i>			1,696,400	4,500,000

SCHEDULE – Concl'd
Supplementary Estimates 2025 – 2026 No. 3 – Concl'd

HEAD	Code Number	Provision in Approved Estimates 2025 – 2026	Provision in Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1–2	Supplementary Provision Required
		Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure	Other Expenditure
		\$	\$	\$
HEAD 93 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND MAINTENANCE				
Program 520: Housing Program				
Subprogram 0533: National Housing Corporation	935200533			
<i>Account Code: 316 – Grants to Public Institutions</i>		5,500,000		3,900,000
Program 522: Land and Property Acquisition and Management Program				
Subprogram 0537: Acquisition	935220537			
<i>Account Code: 750 – Acquisition</i>		6,000,000		1,818,876
Subprogram 0539: Property Management	935220539			
<i>Account Code: 208 – Rental of Property</i>		49,965,000		12,000,000
<i>Account Code: 211 – Maintenance of Property</i>		10,468,150		6,876,392

and on his motion, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, Head 13 Prime Minister's Office – \$4,900,000.00 was passed.

HEAD 14 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – \$8,483,669.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, Head 14 was passed.

HEAD 15 – CABINET OFFICE – \$6,069,690.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael, Head 15 was passed.

HEAD 31 – MINISTRY OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – \$3,524,000.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, Head 31 was passed.

HEAD 82 – MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATIONAL BEAUTIFICATION – \$579,000.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, Head 82 was passed.

HEAD 84 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND THIRD SECTOR – \$4,500,000.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, Head 84 was passed.

HEAD 93 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND MAINTENANCE – \$24,595,268.00

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn who spoke, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, Head 93 was passed.

On the motion of Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. D. I. Ishmael, the Chairman reported to Mr. Deputy Speaker, who resumed the Chair, the passing of the Resolution in Standing Finance Committee.

On the separate motion of the Hon. R. R. Straughn, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES (recommitted)

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw moved seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the appointments to the Joint Select Committees following:

1. Governance and Policy Matters

Dr. S. E. Browne
Mr. R. R. Brathwaite
Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls
Hon. C. J. Blackman; and
Hon. Miss K. S. McConney

2. Economic and Productive Sectors

Mr. D. G. Sutherland
Dr. W. F. Duguid
Hon. I. A. Weir
Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands; and
Dr. the Hon. R. O. Springer

3. Social Sector and the Environment

Ms. T. N. S.-A. Moore
Ms T. Trotman
Hon. D. I. Ishmael
Hon. A. R. Forde; and
Hon. C. McD. Griffith.
The motion was passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the adjournment of the House to Tuesday, 21st April, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

The motion was passed.

At 4.55 p.m. Mr. Deputy 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

MINUTES

Tuesday, 31st March, 2026.

Government Printing Department.