



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Honourable the House of Assembly

At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, the 29th day of April, 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*)

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, S.C., LL.B. (*Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development, Minister of National Security*)

Hon. T. A. Prescod, J.P., B.A. (*Minister in the Prime Minister's Office – Pan African Affairs and Heritage*)

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. W. A. Abrahams, S.C., LL.B., L.E.C. (*Attorney General*)

Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (*Minister of Technological and Vocational Training*)

Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. (*Minister of Public and Private Investment*)

Hon. A. R. Forde, Rph. (*Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs*)

Hon. C. McD. Griffith, B.Sc. (*Minister of Sports and Community Empowerment*)

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*)

Hon. R. R. Straughn, B.Sc., M.Sc. (*Minister of Finance*)

Hon. Ms. M. K.-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc. (*Minister in the Prime Minister's Office – Economic Affairs and Planning*)

Ms. T. N. S.-A. Moore, J.P., M.B.A.

Hon. Miss K. S. McConney (*Minister of the Public Service and Talent Development*)

Dr. the Hon. R. O. Springer, J.P., Ph.D. (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Works*)

Hon. C. D. L. Gibbs (*Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance*)

Hon. C. J. Blackman, J.P., LL.B., LL.M., ACI Arb. (*Minister of Educational Transformation*)

Hon. M. A. Lashley, LL.B. (Hons.) (*Minister of Legal Affairs and Criminal Justice*)

Dr. the Hon. S. M. Munro-Knight, Ph.D. (*Minister of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security*)

Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.), MCI Arb. (*Minister of Home Affairs and Information*)

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*), Mr. D. G. Sutherland, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), Dr. W. F. Duguid, J.P., B.D.S., F.D.S., F.D.R.C.S., M. Min., Mr. P. R. Phillips, J.P. (*Chairman of Committees*), Hon. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, J.P. (*Minister of Tourism and International Transport*), Dr. S. E. Browne, M.B.B.S., Hon. D. I. Ishmael, M.B.A., M.Sc. (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness*) and Mr. R. R. Brathwaite, J.P., B.Sc.

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Mark Harewood.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21st April, 2026 were deferred on the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw gave notice of the following:

- Maritime Areas (Jurisdiction and Rights) Bill, 2026; and
- Seafarers Bill, 2026.

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:

- Maritime Areas (Jurisdiction and Rights) Bill, 2026; and
- Seafarers Bill, 2026.

On the motion of Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, the Bills following were read a first time:

- Immigration Bill, 2026; and
- Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2026.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4

IMMIGRATION BILL, 2026

On the Order being called for Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls 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 and Order 5 in a cognate debate.

The Hon. Member spoke and moved, seconded by Hon. W. A. Abrahams, that Bills be referred to the Committee on the Economic and Productive Sectors.

The motion was passed.

Further consideration of the Bills was postponed.

Government Business was postponed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1

On the Order being called for Ms. T. N. S.-A. Moore to move the passing of the following Resolution:
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 National Housing Corporation 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.

The Hon. Member spoke and moved seconded, by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, who reserved his right to speak, that the Resolution be passed.

Hon. C. E. Jordan spoke.

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

SUSPENSION

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands the Sitting was suspended at 12.50 p.m. to 1.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the Sitting was suspended at 1.20 p.m. to 1.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (recommitted)

Hon W. A. Abrahams gave notice of the Criminal Gangs (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2026.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS (recommitted)

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams, seconded by Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls the Criminal Gangs (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2026 was read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Hon. W. A. Abrahams who spoke, seconded by Hon. G. P. B. Nicholls, the House was adjourned to Friday, 8th May, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

At 1.50 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
, 2026.

day of

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
BRIDGETOWN.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF 2026 – 2031

MINUTES

Wednesday, 29th April, 2026.

Government Printing Department.