

PRESS RELEASE

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (STANDING) ON ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS ON THE IMMIGRATION BILL, 2026 AND BARBADOS CITIZENSHIP BILL, 2026

On 29th April, 2026 the Honourable the House of Assembly committed the following Bills:

Immigration Bill, 2026 and the Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2026

to a Joint Select Committee (Standing) on Economic and Productive Sectors of the two Houses of Parliament comprising five (5) members of the Honourable the House of Assembly and four (4) members of the Honourable the Senate and has approved the following terms of reference for the Committee:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference determined to guide its inquiry:

- (a) To review and consider the Report of the Joint Select Committee (Standing) on Governance and Policy matters and consider the merits of any submissions received prior to the dissolution of Parliament;
- (b) To examine the Immigration Bill, 2026, and the Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2026, with a view to assessing their compliance with the principles of good governance, fundamental rights, and international obligations of Barbados;
- (c) To examine the Immigration Bill, 2026, and the Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2026, and to assess their compatibility with the BERT 2026 mission to strengthen the nation's competitive edge in the global marketplace, attracting valuable human capital and investment, promoting innovation, and the facilitation of economic diversification;
- (d) To invite and consider written submissions from interested organisations, groups, and individuals on the provisions of the said Bills;
- (e) To hear oral presentations from stakeholders, including the Minister responsible for the Bills, the Barbados Employers Confederation, Labour Unions, Small Business Association and other interested parties;
- (f) To formulate recommendations for amendments to the Bills, where appropriate, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Houses of Parliament.

Parliament has appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee (Standing) on Economic and Productive Sectors:

Mr. Dwight D. Sutherland, M.P.

Dr. William F. Duguid, J.P., M.P.

Hon. Indar A. Weir, M.P.

Dr. the Hon. Romel O. Springer, J.P., M.P.

Hon. Ms. C. Sandra V. Husbands, M.P.

Senator the Hon. Jonathan W. D. Reid

Senator the Hon. Christopher P. Sinckler

Senator Ryan O. Walters

Senator Andrew W. Mallalieu

The Committee will shortly commence its work **at the Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown.**

The Bills are available online at www.barbadosparliament.com.

The Bills are available for comment on the Barbados Parliament's website.

In keeping with parliamentary practice, the Committee through this press release invites and encourages the public whether as individuals, professional organisations, community based groups, official and unofficial bodies with special interest and generally anyone who may assist with its work to submit memoranda or other documents setting out their views and comments on the issues.

The Committee also encourages individuals who may tender written submissions to indicate whether they would also want to appear in person before the Committee to give oral presentations of no more than ten (10) minutes.

The Committee also invites individuals who want only to make an oral presentation to indicate such desire and interest to the Committee.

The Committee may also invite individuals or summon witnesses under the law to attend its meetings to give evidence to help towards formulating a well informed and balanced report on the captioned subject matter.

The Committee's paramount mission will be to conduct a thorough analysis within its mandate to determine whether the provisions of the Bills as they currently stand would achieve their stated objectives.

The Committee notes that these Bills were before the Committee of Governance on Policy Matters prior to the dissolution of Parliament. Those members of the public and professional organisations who tendered submissions before the Committee on Governance and Policy Matters need not resubmit their views to this Committee as those submissions will be placed before the Committee and

any Report prepared by the Joint Select Committee Standing on Governance and Policy Matters would have considered these submissions and in any event will constitute Terms of Reference (a).

The Committee shall prepare and submit a comprehensive report containing the:

- Findings on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Immigration and Barbados Citizenship Bills, 2026;
- Recommendations for amendments or policy adjustments, where necessary;
- Proposals to strengthen managed migration, diaspora engagement, national development strategies, how best to encourage sustainable population growth and strengthen Barbados' global competitiveness.

Individuals should submit their views and/or memoranda to the **Clerk of Parliament, Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown.**

Written communication also includes email. Mailed responses should be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown. E-mails should be sent to **parliament@barbados.gov.bb**

It should be noted that written submissions and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Clerk of Parliament no later than 22nd May, 2026.

The proceedings of the Joint Select Committee (Standing) will take place at the Parliament of Barbados and will be conducted in public.

The proceedings will be streamed live on the Barbados Parliament's website, on social media and broadcast on CBC TV whenever possible.

Notice of the dates when the Select Committee will sit will be posted via the Barbados Parliament website.

Reports by the Committee will be laid in both Houses of Parliament.