



MINUTES

OF THE

HONOURABLE JAMAICA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

At a meeting of the Members of the House of Representatives held pursuant to adjournment at Gordon House in the City and Parish of Kingston on Wednesday, the

13TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

The House met at 2:27 P.M. o'clock.

PRAYERS

Prayer was read by Mr. Andrew Morris.

The Deputy Speaker welcomed all to sitting for the continuation of the Sectoral Debate, featuring contributions from the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining; the Member of Parliament for Manchester, North Western; and the Member of Parliament for St. James, Southern. He extended a special welcome to the team from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining; constituents from St. Elizabeth, South Western; Manchester, North Western; and St. James, Southern; other guests seated in the Gallery; and persons who were viewing the proceedings via the various social media platforms and the Public Broadcasting Corporation Jamaica's live stream.

CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT WERE:

Mr. Heroy Anthony Clarke, MP, Deputy Speaker (St. James, Central)

The Honourable Floyd O'Brian Green, MP, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and Leader of the House

The Honourable. Dr. Horace Anthony Chang, OJ, CD, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace

The Honourable Fayval Shirley Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service

The Honourable Delroy Hawmin Chuck, KC, MP, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

The Honourable Robert Nesta Morgan, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development with responsibility for Works

Dr. the Honourable Andrew O'Brien Wheatley, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Science, Technology and Special Projects

The Honourable Juliet Samantha Cuthbert Flynn, OD, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace

The Honourable Franklin Robert Witter, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining

The Honourable Marisa Colleen Dalrymple Philibert, CD, Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

The Honourable Donovan St. Ledger Williams, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security

Mr. Richard Edward Azan, MP, Clarendon, North Western

Mr. Christopher Rew Brown, MP, St. Mary, South Eastern

Mr. Isat Aquaba Buchanan, MP, Portland Eastern

Ms. Nekeisha Shernicka Burchell, MP, St. James, Southern

Dr. Dayton Ricardo Campbell, MP, Westmoreland, Eastern

Mr. Lothan Cousins, MP, Clarendon, South Western

Mr. Damion Orande Crawford, MP, St. Catherine, North Western

Miss Joyce Denise Daley, MP, St. Catherine, Eastern

Mr. Dennis Junior Gordon, MP, St. Andrew, East Central

Mr. Wavell Wayne Hinds, MP, Clarendon, Northern

Mr. George Anthony Hylton, CD, MP, St. Andrew, Western

Ms. Zuleika Amadie Jess, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Eastern

Mrs. Marlene Patricia Malahoo Forte, KC, MP, St. James, West Central

Mrs. Heatha Mavarie Miller Bennett, MP, Hanover, Western

Mr. Andrew Antonio Morris, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Western

Mrs. Natalie Gaye Neita Garvey, MP, St. Catherine, North Central

Mr. Omar Anthony Newell, MP, St. Mary, Central

Mr. Phillip Feanny Paulwell, CD, MP, Kingston, Eastern and Port Royal

Mr. Mikael Asher Phillips, MP, Manchester, North Western

Ms. Andrea Marvalyn Purkiss, MP, Hanover, Eastern

Mr. Julian Jay Robinson, MP, St. Andrew, South Eastern

Dr. Kenneth Alphanso Russell, MP, St. Ann, South Eastern

Ms. Yvonne Rose Marie Shaw, MP, St. Thomas, Eastern

Mr. Duane Charles Edward Smith, MP, St. Andrew, North Western

Mr. Dwayne Francois St. Michael Vaz, MP, Westmoreland, Central

Mr. Clifford Everaldo Errol Warmington, CD, MP, St. Catherine, South Western

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk laid on the Table of the House a copy of the following:

Green Paper
Numbered 01/2026

Titled:

National Youth in Agriculture Policy
[Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining]

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

The Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

BE IT RESOLVED, with reference to the resolution approved by this Honourable House appointing the Standing Orders Committee that this Committee be allowed to hold hybrid meetings that are partly virtual and partly physical, utilizing available information and communication technologies in the manner more specifically outlined below:

Preserving the rights, powers and privileges, including voting rights, normally accorded to a Member of a Committee, the Committee is hereby empowered to:

1. Convene and hold meetings in virtual spaces created using information and communication technologies which shall be considered committee meetings for the purpose of the mandate of the Committee;
2. Allow access and participation from remote locations, as are enabled by means of information and virtual technologies, by Members and other persons authorized by the Committee;
3. Include Members accessing and participating from remote locations as a part of its quorum;
4. Receive, consider, deliberate on, and respond to feedback and submissions in formats, modes and media, and via platforms, modes and media enabled by means of information and communication technologies, from any person;
5. Consider any and all information generated, communicated and received via formats, platforms, modes or media, as enabled by means of information and communication technologies, as forming a part of the record of the Committee's meetings.

He further gave notice that at a later stage that day he would move for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable him to take this motion.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

BE IT RESOLVED, with reference to the resolution approved by this Honourable House appointing the Standing Orders Committee that this Committee be allowed to hold hybrid meetings that are partly virtual and partly physical, utilizing available information and communication technologies in the manner more specifically outlined below:

Preserving the rights, powers and privileges, including voting rights, normally accorded to a Member of a Committee, the Committee is hereby empowered to:

1. Convene and hold meetings in virtual spaces created using information and communication technologies which shall be considered committee meetings for the purpose of the mandate of the Committee;
2. Allow access and participation from remote locations, as are enabled by means of information and virtual technologies, by Members and other persons authorized by the Committee;
3. Include Members accessing and participating from remote locations as a part of its quorum;
4. Receive, consider, deliberate on, and respond to feedback and submissions in formats, modes and media, and via platforms, modes and media enabled by means of information and communication technologies, from any person;
5. Consider any and all information generated, communicated and received via formats, platforms, modes or media, as enabled by means of information and communication technologies, as forming a part of the record of the Committee's meetings.

Seconded by: Mr. Andrew Morris

Agreed to

(Dr. Alfred Patrick Dawes, MP, St. Catherine, South Eastern, entered and took his seat).

SECTORAL DEBATE

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, continued the debate on the motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House of Representatives approve the plans and programmes being pursued by the Government in respect of ministries which were not included in the debate on the Appropriation Bill and further approve the policy projections as announced for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

(The Honourable Ambassador Audrey Patrice Marks, OJ, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Alando Nathaniel Terrelonge, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Matthew Peter Samuda, MP, Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Delroy Hugh Williams, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local and Community Development, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Parnel Patroë Charles, Jr., MP, Minister of Labour and Social Security, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Olivia Atavia Grange, OJ, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, entered and took her seat).

(Dr. Honourable Christopher Charles Tufton, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Rhoda Moy Crawford, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Tova Tené Hamilton, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Kerensia Alicia Morrison, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Krystal Kerry-Ann Lee, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, entered and took her seat).

(Most Honourable Juliet Ann Marie Holness, MP, Speaker, entered and took her seat).

Mr. Mikael Phillips and Ms. Nekeish Burchell also spoke on the motion.

Pursuant to the agreement of the House on April 21, 2026, a Minister contributing in the Sectoral Debate was allotted 45 minutes to speak, with a further extension of 15 minutes. An Opposition Spokesperson was allotted 30 minutes, with an additional five minutes permitted.

At the sitting, the Deputy Speaker granted the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining a further ten minutes to complete his presentation, while Mr. Mikael Phillips was granted an additional three minutes.

Further debate on the substantive motion was, by leave, deferred.

The Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, moved that the item, “Questions and Answers to Questions” be recommitted.

Seconded by: Mr. Damion Crawford
Agreed to

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, moved that the House be allowed to receive questions after 3:15 p.m.

Seconded by: Mr. Isat Buchanan
Agreed to

Mr. Dwayne Vaz gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would ask the Minister of Local Government and Community Development the following Question:

Part 1

What is the estimated total cost of the proposed 50 house housing development for families displaced by Hurricane Melissa?

Part 2

What is the source of funding for the project?

Part 3

Which ministry, agency, or entity has responsibility for the execution and oversight of the project?

Part 4

How much funding has been allocated to the responsible agency or entity to date?

Part 5

Has a formal contract been executed between the responsible agency and the contractor for the project?

- a. If yes, on what date was the contract signed?
- b. If no, why has work proceeded without a formal contract in place?

Part 6

Who is the registered owner of the lands being used for the housing development?

Part 7

Has a sale agreement or transfer arrangement been entered into regarding the lands for the project?

Part 8

If yes, when was the agreement finalized, and can documentary proof be provided?

Part 9

On what date did physical work officially commence on the project?

Part 10

What is the projected timeline for the full completion of the 50-house development?

Part 11

What is the projected timeline for completion of the first phase consisting of 20 houses?

Part 12

Have the beneficiaries for the first phase of 20 houses been identified?

- a. If yes, what criteria and process were used to select them?

Part 13

Have the beneficiaries for the remaining 30 houses been identified?

- a. If yes, what criteria and process were used to select them?

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:24 p.m., the Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, moved that the House do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.

Seconded by: Dr. Alfred Dawes
Agreed to

The House adjourned accordingly.

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Juliet Holness, MP
Speaker