



## MINUTES

## OF THE

## HONOURABLE JAMAICA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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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 Tuesday, the

19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2026

The House met at 2:19 P.M. o'clock.

### PRAYERS

Prayer was read by Mr. Omar Newell.

The Deputy Speaker welcomed all to the sitting of the House for the continuation of the Sectoral Debate featuring contributions from the Minister of Labour and Social Security; the Member of Parliament for Clarendon, Northern; and the Member of Parliament for St. Catherine South Eastern. He extended a special welcome to:

- Dr. Mavis Gilmore, former Member of Parliament and former Minister of Social Security and Consumer Affairs
- Mr. Parnel Charles, Snr., former Member of Parliament and former Minister
- Dr. Michelle Charles, former Member of Parliament
- Dr. Eleasia Charles, wife of the Honourable Parnel Charles, Jr.
- Dr. Winsome Gordon
- Mr. Dana Sacheti, Head, Jamaica Satellite Office for the United Nations World Food Programme
- Persons joining online via the various social media platforms and the Public Broadcasting Corporation Jamaica's live stream

He advised persons in the Gallery not to disturb the proceedings by reacting to the speeches.

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and Leader of the House, also extended special welcome to the guests.

### 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 Edmund Curtis Bartlett, OJ, CD, MP, Minister of Tourism

The Honourable Robert St. Aubyn Montague, CD, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development with responsibility for Land Titling and Settlements

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

The Honourable Pearnel Patroe Charles, Jr., MP, Minister of Labour and Social Security

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

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

The Honourable Matthew Peter Samuda, MP, Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change

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 Kerensia Alicia Morrison, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

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

The Honourable Zavia Taze Mayne, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

The Honourable Rhoda Moy Crawford, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information

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

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

Mr. Isat Aquaba Buchanan, MP, Portland Eastern

Mr. Peter Murcott Bunting, MP, Manchester, Southern

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

Dr. Dayton Ricardo Campbell, MP, Westmoreland, Eastern

Mr. Lothan Cousins, MP, Clarendon, South Western

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

Dr. Alfred Patrick Dawes, MP, St. Catherine, South Eastern

Mr. Mark Jefferson Golding, MP, St. Andrew, Southern

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

Mr. Ian Dave Hayles, MP, Westmoreland, Western

Mr. Wavell Wayne Hinds, MP, Clarendon, Northern

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

Mr. Fitz Arthur Jackson, CD, MP, St. Catherine, Southern

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

Mrs. Heatha Mavarie Miller Bennett, MP, Hanover, 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. James Rudolph Edward Robertson, MP, St. Thomas, Western

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

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that the agenda items be suspended to enable the House to take the item, “Public Business”.

Seconded by: Mr. Fitz Jackson  
Agreed to

(The Honourable Desmond Anthony Augustus McKenzie, CD, MP, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, entered and took his seat).

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **SECTORAL DEBATE**

The Honourable Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of Labour and Social Security, 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.

(Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Marisa Colleen Dalrymple Philibert, CD, Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Olivia Atavia Grange, OJ, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, 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 Delano Orlando Seiveright, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, entered and took his seat).

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

(Mrs. Marlene Patricia Malahoo Forte, KC, MP, St. James, West Central, entered and took her seat).

(The Honourable Daryl Wesley Phillip Vaz, MP, Minister of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Damion Orande Crawford, MP, St. Catherine, North Western, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Andrew Antonio Morris, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Western, entered and took his seat).

Mr. Wavell Hinds and Dr. Alfred Dawes 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. All speakers were granted their respective extensions.

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

The Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, moved that a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Amend the National Housing Trust Act” be now read a second time.

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

Mr. Mark Golding; the Honourable Matthew Samuda, Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change; Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development; Mr. Isat Buchanan; Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte; Dr. Dayton Campbell; Mr. George Hylton; Mr. Damion Crawford; Dr. Kenneth Russell; and Mr. Fitz Jackson also spoke on the motion.

Seconded by: Mr. James Robertson

Agreed to

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the clauses of the Bill.

Clause 1 agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed to Clause 2:

1. Delete paragraphs (c), (d) and (e).

On the question that clause 2 be amended, the House voted as follows:

**Ayes:** R. Azan, C. Brown, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, J. Daley, M. Golding, I. Hayles, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, Z. Jess, H. Miller Bennett, N. Neita Garvey, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, A. Purkiss, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz,  
– 23

**Noes:** E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jr., D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, D. McKenzie, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Warmington, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter – 30

**Declined to Voted:** Nil

**Absent:** A. Brown Burke, N. Burchell, A. Dawes, D. Gordon, J. Holness, K. Lee, J. Robinson, C. Tufton, and D. W. Vaz - **9**

Clause 2, as amended, was not approved in the affirmative.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Title and Enacting Clause agreed to.

The question that the Bill be reported to the House as having passed Committee stage without amendment agreed to.

*The House resumed.*

The Bill having been reported as having passed Committee stage without amendment, The Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, moved that a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Amend the National Housing Trust Act” be now read a third time.

On the question that the Bill be read a third time, the House voted as follows:

**Ayes:** E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jr., D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, D. McKenzie, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Warmington, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter – **29**

**Noes:** R. Azan, C. Brown, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, J. Daley, M. Golding, D. Gordon, I. Hayles, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, Z. Jess, H. Miller Bennett, N. Neita Garvey, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, A. Purkiss, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, – **24**

**Declined to Voted: Nil**

**Absent:** A. Brown Burke, N. Burchell, A. Dawes, J. Holness, K. Lee, Z. Mayne, J. Robinson, C. Tufton, and D. W. Vaz – **9**

The Bill be read a third time was approved in the affirmative.

Seconded by: Mr. Andrew Morris  
Agreed to

Clerk read the Bill a third time.

Bill passed without amendment.

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that all the agenda items before the item “Public Business” be recommitted.

Seconded by: Mr. George Hylton  
Agreed to

### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Hononourable Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, made the following Statement regarding *Workers’ Week and Labour Day*:

Mr. Speaker:

The nation again pauses to commemorate two activities in combination: Workers' Week and Labour Day. Workers' Week celebrates Jamaican workers who through decent, hard work have made their contribution to the building of this nation.

During this period, we recall the struggles of our forebears for equality and basic rights, under a system that was designed to extract and utilise their skills without reasonable returns. This is also a time to review how far we have come in the labour movement; and to pay homage to the brave men and women who did what needed to be done to give us the rights, privileges and benefits we have today.

While 1938 stands out as the start of the labour movement, we should never forget the determination of people such as Sam Sharpe, Paul Bogle, Takyi and others who rose up against forced labour and helped future generations see that inequity in the workplace was unacceptable.

But we also use this opportunity to recognise more recent champions in the fight for workers' rights.

This year, we honour two of those modern voices. First among them is the late Honourable Lynden Gladstone Newland, former Minister of Labour and National Insurance, whose contribution to the concept of social security is legendary. We have agreed to name the National Insurance Building of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security at National Heroes Circle the Lynden Gladstone Newland Building in recognition and celebration of his selfless service in raising his voice on behalf of the poor and vulnerable Jamaican workers.

This year, we also honour a woman who toiled ceaselessly and untiringly for the upliftment of Jamaican workers – The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, former Prime Minister of Jamaica and a former Minister of Labour. In recognition of her voice raised out of concern for the dignity and elevation of the Jamaican working class we have agreed to name the main building of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security at 1F North Street in her honour – the Portia Simpson Miller Building.

The planning and implementation of activities for Workers' Week and Labour Day underscores the benefits of inter-ministerial collaboration. I thank colleague Ministers and their teams for the working relationship through the Labour Day Secretariat located in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. I refer especially to the Ministers and Ministries of:

- Labour and Social Security
- Local Government and Community Development
- as well as the Jamaica Defence Force

Labour Day, which culminates Workers' Week, is a celebration of voluntary service and commitment, especially to the most vulnerable among us.

Of significance this year will be the first Workers' Week and Labour Day after the devastating hurricane Melissa of October 28, 2025. As a people, we are still rebuilding stronger from that catastrophic experience which has been made bearable by the many gestures of love and support Jamaicans everywhere, and from people, governments, and organisations across the world. Today, a grateful nation says thanks again to all who have been there for us.

Within this context of this severest of disasters that we have endured in our history, the government is especially encouraging Jamaicans to put work into this Labour Day as we continue to rebuild stronger.

This year, we are calling the nation to pay special focus on the restoration of sports, early childhood and community facilities in our work on Labour Day.

The National Secretariat has identified two National Projects this year.

One of these projects is the Lewis Town Early Childhood Institution in St. Elizabeth. The school was severely damaged by the disastrous hurricane Melissa. As a National Labour Day Project, there will be significant work to restore the institution to safety, comfort and enhanced resilience. One of the principal tasks of government is to ensure that our children, in particular, the most

vulnerable younger ones, are provided with real opportunities to learn, enjoy their schooling and life in general and feel protected by the adults around them. We welcome all to work alongside us at Lewis Town Early Childhood Institution on Labour Day.

The other National Project is Sabina Park in Kingston — a significant space in the modern history of Jamaica. As we prepare for the return of the Caribbean Premier League to Jamaica; and to host the West Indies home series against Sri Lanka, there is need to undertake significant work at the historic site to:

- ensure the success of the competitions,
- and that we continue to build Jamaica's reputation as a place of choice to watch, participate in and discuss sports.

The work at Sabina Park includes site clearance, general landscaping and beautification, painting, minor remedial works, enhancing user safety and overall visitor experience.

Each year, we are pleased with the enthusiasm displayed across Jamaica as people of all ages everywhere get involved in projects as we put work into Labour Day.

All across Jamaica we see people engaged in painting, bushing, fixing and remodelling infrastructure, cleaning drains, beautifying or creating community parks and recreation centres, upgrading basic schools and kindergarten spaces, including even targeting the elderly by creating new homes or fixing old homes.

For all of this, we give thanks to the various stakeholders including Ministries Departments and Agencies; Members of Parliament; Mayors and Councillors; churches; civil organisations; youth clubs; service clubs; police clubs; businesses and institutions; and individuals. It is a joy to see across the length and breadth of Jamaica our people engaged in serving each other, especially the weak and vulnerable.

I am also heartened by some organisations that have taken on what they have called pre-Labour Day projects. Some of these are people who do some earlier work before Labour Day as part of the effort to finish the project on the day. Today, I want to especially highlight the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for using the concept of the pre-Labour Day project to do significant retrofitting of the Reading Room at Catherine Hall Primary & Infant School in St James today and tomorrow.

Under law, Labour Day will be observed on Monday, May 25 as the 23rd falls on a Saturday.

The theme for Labour Day is: One People, One Purpose. In all things: Jamaica Wins.

I also wish to announce that Members of Parliament will each be given Nine Hundred Thousand Jamaican Dollars (J\$900,000) for the implementation of projects. We also commend private sector entities that also contribute to projects, including through the contribution of kind, such as paints, etc.

We are asking that all projects be registered with the Jamaica Information Service. There is a registration form on the JIS website ([jis.gov.jm](http://jis.gov.jm)) and we also have a link to the registration page on website of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport ([mcges.gov.jm](http://mcges.gov.jm)).

As usual, after a hard day of voluntary service, we will gather at Emancipation Park for our Labour Day Praise and Worship Concert as we give thanks to the Almighty Father for a day well spent in fellowship within and service to the Jamaican family.

We encourage, we participate in, and we appreciate all the work that people across the country will do on Labour Day in the spirit of volunteerism and nation-building to help improve their communities. The value of the work that we, as a nation, put into Labour Day is immense and highly beneficial.

Through our focus during Workers' Week and our combined actions on Labour Day we will promote one people who have one purpose and then in all things, Jamaica wins.

Jamaica wins when we pull together and work together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The text presented is that which was submitted by the Minister's Office. Please consult the Hansard for Verbatim Report.*

Ms. Joyce Daley spoke on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. Wavell Hinds and Mr. Omar Newell asked questions for clarification.

The time being 7:21 p.m., the Speaker interrupted the proceedings.

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that the House be allowed to sit beyond 7:30 p.m. to complete the business of the day.

Seconded by: Mrs. Heatha Miller Bennett

Agreed to

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Annual Report of the  
Ministry of Labour and Social Security  
For the Financial Year 2024/2025  
[Ministry of Labour and Social Security]

Integrity Commission's  
Investigation Report into Concerns that,  
Mr. Karl Walker, a Clerk of Works formerly employed to the National Housing Trust, failed to  
file his Statutory Declaration with the Commission for the year 2023, contrary to law  
and its indicative ruling  
[Integrity Commission]

Integrity Commission's  
Investigation Report into concerns that,  
Ms. Kereen Green, a Loans Officer employed to the National Housing Trust, failed to file her  
Statutory Declaration with the Commission for the year 2023, contrary to law  
and its indicative ruling  
[Integrity Commission]

Integrity Commission's  
Investigation Report into concerns that, Ms. Correne Henry, a Loans Officer employed to the  
National Housing Trust, failed to file her Statutory Declaration with the Commission for the year  
2023, contrary to law  
and its indicative ruling  
[Integrity Commission]

Integrity Commission's  
Investigation Report into concerns that,  
Mr. Kashif Ford, a Programmer Analyst employed to the Information & Communication  
Technology Authority, failed to file his Statutory Declaration with the Commission for the year  
2023, contrary to law  
and its indicative ruling  
[Integrity Commission]

Mr. Phillip Paulwell enquired about a statement issued from the Parliament regarding the tabling of a report which was sent to the Parliament on March 30, 2026. The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, indicated that checks will be made on matter. Mr. Mark Golding also expressed concerns regarding the issue.

**TRIBUTES**

The House paid tribute to the late Mr. Leslie Campbell, former Member of Parliament and former Senator. Contributions were made by the Most Honourable Dr. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development; the Honourable Kerensia Morrison, Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport; the Honourable Marisa Dalrymple Philibert, Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; the Honourable Alando Terrelonge, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; the Honourable Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport; and the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House.

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, requested that the tributes be compiled and shared with the family of the late Mr. Leslie Campbell.

The House observed a moment of silence.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:06 p.m., the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that the House do now adjourn to **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**.

Seconded by: Mr. Andrew Morris  
Agreed to

The House adjourned accordingly.

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Heroy Clarke, MP  
**Deputy Speaker**