



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 Tuesday, the

21ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026

The House met at 2:20 P.M. o'clock.

PRAYERS

Prayer was read by Dr. Alfred Dawes.

The Speaker welcomed all to the sitting and reminded Members to maintain the standards of the House in accordance with the Standing Orders, as well as established practices and procedures. She noted that the Sectoral Debate would commence at the sitting and extended a special welcome to members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from the Ministry of National Security, Mrs. Beverley Manley Duncan, other invited guest, and those viewing via various media platforms, particularly, the Public Broadcasting Corporation Jamaica's live stream.

CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT WERE:

Most Honourable Juliet Ann Marie Holness, MP, Speaker

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

The Honourable Olivia Atavia Grange, OJ, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

The Honourable Desmond Anthony Augustus McKenzie, CD, MP, Minister of Local Government and Community Development

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

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

The Honourable Delano Orlando Seiveright, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce

Dr. Angela Rose Marie Brown Burke, MP, St Andrew, South Western

Mr. Isat Aquaba Buchanan, MP, Portland Eastern

Mr. Peter Murcott Bunting, MP, Manchester, Southern

Dr. Dayton Ricardo Campbell, MP, Westmoreland, Eastern

Mr. Lothan Cousins, MP, Clarendon, South Western

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. 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. James Rudolph Edward Robertson, MP, St. Thomas, Western

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Annual Report and Statements Accounts of the
Banana Board
for the Year Ended December 31, 2023
and its related
MINISTRY PAPER
Numbered 22/2026
Titled:
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Banana Board
for the Year 2023
[Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining]

Bank of Jamaica's
Report on Performance and Main Activities
of the Bank of Jamaica Board of Directors for the Financial Year 2025
and
Bank of Jamaica's
Monetary Policy Statement for
August 2025 Quarterly Monetary Policy Report
December 2025 Quarterly Monetary Policy Report
[Bank of Jamaica]

(Ms. Nekeisha Shernicka Burchell, MP, St. James, Southern, entered and took her seat).

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HONOURABLE SENATE

The Clerk presented the following message from the President of the Senate:

TO THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I have the honour to advise the Honourable House of Representatives that on the 17th day of April, 2026, a Bill entitled “An Act to Amend Jury Act” was passed in the Senate without amendment.

Thomas Tavares-Finson, OJ, CD, KC, JP
President of the Senate

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS subsection (1)(g) of section 41 of the Constitution of Jamaica requires a Member of this Honourable House of Representatives to vacate his seat if any firm in which he is a partner, or any company of which he is a director or manager, becomes a party to any contract with the Government of Jamaica for or on account of the public service or if he becomes a partner in a firm, or a director or manager of a company which is a party to any such contract;

AND WHEREAS the Member of Parliament for Manchester, North West is a Director of Awesome Party Rentals and a Shareholder of ITGG Ltd.;

AND WHEREAS Awesome Party Rentals may from time to time enter into contracts with the Government of Jamaica and its affiliated agencies;

AND WHEREAS the Member has disclosed his interest in these entities;

BE IT RESOLVED that this motion be referred to the Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives for consideration and report.

He also gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security:

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.

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 these motions.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

WHEREAS subsection (1)(g) of section 41 of the Constitution of Jamaica requires a Member of this Honourable House of Representatives to vacate his seat if any firm in which he is a partner, or any company of which he is a director or manager, becomes a party to any contract with the Government of Jamaica for or on account of the public service or if he becomes a partner in a firm, or a director or manager of a company which is a party to any such contract;

AND WHEREAS the Member of Parliament for Manchester, North West is a Director of Awesome Party Rentals and a Shareholder of ITGG Ltd.;

AND WHEREAS Awesome Party Rentals may from time to time enter into contracts with the Government of Jamaica and its affiliated agencies;

AND WHEREAS the Member has disclosed his interest in these entities;

BE IT RESOLVED that this motion be referred to the Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives for consideration and report.

Seconded by: Dr. Angela Brown Burke
Agreed to

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

SECTORAL DEBATE

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace:

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 Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, informed the House that the Sectoral Debate speaking times would be strictly observed, with Ministers allotted 45 minutes and Opposition Spokespersons 30 minutes. He noted that

Ministers may receive an additional 15 minutes if needed, bringing their total time to no more than 60 minutes, while Opposition Spokespersons may be granted an additional 5 minutes, for a maximum of 35 minutes. He also noted that the speakers opening and closing the debate would be given an additional 10 minutes. The House agreed to the times for the Sectoral Debate.

(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 Dr. Horace Chang, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, commenced the debate on the motion.

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

(Mr. Christopher Rew Brown, MP, St. Mary, South Eastern, entered and took his seat).

(Dr. Honourable Christopher Charles Tufton, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness, 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 Kerensia Alicia Morrison, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, entered and took her seat).

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

(Miss Joyce Denise Daley, MP, St. Catherine, Eastern, entered and took her seat).

(Mr. Clifford Everald Errol Warmington, CD, MP, St. Catherine, South Western, entered and took his seat).

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

Mr. Phillip Paulwell also spoke on the motion.

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

Mr. Mark Golding continued the debate on the motion that a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Make provision for the management and implementation of the post-disaster reconstruction and resilience efforts consequent on the passage of Hurricane Melissa and for resilience generally, to establish the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority; and for connected matters” be now read a second time.

The Member having spoken for 30 minutes, the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that his time for speaking be extended by 10 minutes to allow him to complete his presentation.

Seconded by: Mrs. Natalie Neita Garvey
Agreed to

The Speaker reminded Members of the Speaker’s Ruling on ‘The Order of Speaking and Use of Microphones’, which was given at the sitting held on October 21, 2025.

Mr. Damion Crawford; Mr. Peter Bunting; Mr. Isat Buchanan; the Honourable Delano Seiveright, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce; Mr. George Hylton; Mr. Duane Smith; and Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte also spoke on the substantive motion.

The time being 7:20 p.m., the Speaker interrupted the proceeding.

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: Mr. Wavell Hinds
Agreed to

The Honourable Delroy Williams, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local and Community Development also spoke on the substantive motion.

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

At 7:52 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 a date to be fixed.

Seconded by: Dr. Kenneth Russell
Agreed to

The House adjourned accordingly.

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Juliet Holness, MP
Speaker