



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

28TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026

The House met at 2:18 P.M. o'clock.

PRAYERS

Prayer was read by Mrs. Heatha Miller Bennett.

The Speaker welcomed all present to the sitting for the continuation of the Sectoral Debate and the ordinary business of the House. She indicated that it was expected that Members would maintain the standards of the House in accordance with the Standing Orders and established practice and procedure.

She extended a special welcome to a delegation from the World Bank, as well as a delegation from Rwanda. She noted that the delegation from Rwanda was working with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to conduct an in-depth needs assessment for the implementation of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System across the country's justice sector. She advised that the delegation was being led by the Honourable Regis Rukundakuvuga, President of the Court of Appeal in Rwanda, who was accompanied by Mr. Richard Niwenshuti and Mr. Freddy Makunza, Chef Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, respectively of Rwanda Co-operation Initiative.

The Speaker further noted the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs led by Mrs. Grace-Ann Stewart McFarlane, Permanent Secretary. She also acknowledged constituents seated in the Gallery in support of their respective Members of Parliament who were contributing to the Sectoral Debate. She reminded persons in the Gallery that they were not permitted to applaud or otherwise demonstrate approval during the proceedings. She subsequently welcomed Mr. Wayne Robertson, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change; Mr. Michael Stern, former Member of Parliament; and Senators Rose Marie Bennett Cooper and Dr. Elon Thompson.

The Speaker advised that the proceedings were being broadcast live by the Public Broadcasting Corporation Jamaica and welcomed those joining via the platform as well as the various social media outlets.

CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT WERE:

Most Honourable Juliet Ann Marie Holness, MP, Speaker

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

Dr. Honourable Christopher Charles Tufton, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness

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 Daryl Wesley Phillip Vaz, MP, Minister of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

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

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 Krystal Kerry-Ann Lee, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness

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

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

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

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

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. Ian Dave Hayles, MP, Westmoreland, Western

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 Everald 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. Phillip Paulwell

Agreed to

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(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 Matthew Samuda, Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change, 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.

(Mr. Dennis Junior Gordon, MP, St. Andrew, East Central, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Edmund Curtis Bartlett, OJ, CD, MP, Minister of Tourism, entered and took his seat).

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

(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).

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

(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, 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. James Rudolph Edward Robertson, MP, St. Thomas, Western, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Zavia Taze Mayne, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, entered and took his seat).

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

(Mr. Fitz Arthur Jackson, CD, MP, St. Catherine, Southern, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Juliet Samantha Cuthbert Flynn, OD, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace, entered and took her seat).

(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 Anthony Chang, OJ, CD, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, entered and took his seat).

(The Honourable Tova Tené Hamilton, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, 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).

Mr. Damion Crawford also spoke on the motion.

Pursuant to the agreement of the House on April 21, 2026, the speaking time allocated for the Minister during the Sectoral Debate was 45 minutes, with a further extension of 15 minutes granted. The Opposition Spokesperson was allotted 30 minutes, with an additional five minutes permitted. Both presenters for the day were granted their respective extensions.

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

Dr. Dayton Campbell 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.

Dr. Angela Brown Burke; Dr. the Honourable Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness; the Honourable Donovan Williams, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Dr. Alfred Dawes; Dr. Kenneth Russell; Ms. Nekeisha Burchell; the Honourable Marisa Dalrymple Philibert, Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House; and Ms. Joyce Daley.

The time being 7:37 p.m., the Speaker interrupted the proceeding.

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 sit beyond 7:30 p.m. to complete the business of the day.

Seconded by: Mr. Richard Azan
Agreed to

Mr. Omar Newell and the Honourable Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development and Deputy Leader of the House, also spoke on the substantive motion.

Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development, closed the debate on the substantive motion.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development, having spoken for 30 minutes, the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that his time be extended by 15 minutes to complete his speech.

Seconded by: Mr. Duane Smith
Agreed to

The Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development continued his speech to its conclusion.

On the substantive motion that the Bill be read a second time.

Seconded by: Mr. Andrew Morris
Agreed to

Clerk read the Bill a second time.

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

Clause 1 agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed for clause 2:

1. In the definition of “approving entity” delete the words “Local Authority or public body” and substitute therefor the words “public entity”.

2. In the definition of “public body” delete the words “, but does not include an executive agency designated under the Executive Agencies Act”.

3. Insert in their correct alphabetical sequence, the following definitions –

“ “public entity” means a department or an agency of the Government, a Local Authority or a public body;

“resilience”, in relation to disaster and climate change, means the capacity of communities, infrastructure, institutions, economic and environmental systems to –

- (a) anticipate, prepare for and reduce the adverse effects of disasters and climate change;
- (b) absorb, withstand and adapt to the impacts of disasters so as not to sustain catastrophic damage or loss;
- (c) recover from the adverse effects of disasters in a manner that –
 - (i) restores and, where practicable, improves upon pre-disaster conditions;
 - (ii) reduces or eliminates future vulnerability to the effects of disasters and climate change;
 - (iii) maintains or improves the social well-being, economic productivity and environmental integrity of affected communities;”.

In subclause (2), insert the words “subject to affirmative resolution” after the word “, order”.

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

Ayes: E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jr., D. Chuck, H. Clarke, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter – **31**

Noes: R. Azan, C. Brown, A. Brown Burke, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, N. Burchell, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, A. Dawes, M. Golding, D. Gordon, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, Z. Jess, H. Miller Bennett, N. Neita Garvey, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, A. Purkiss, J. Robinson, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, – **26**

Declined to Voted: M. Malahoo Forte - **1**

Absent: J. Daley, I. Hayles, D. McKenzie, and C. Warmington - **4**

Clause 2, as amended, was approved in the affirmative.

The following was proposed for clause 3:

In the marginal note to the clause, delete the word “the”.

On the question that clause 3, as amended, be approved, the House voted as follows:

Ayes: E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jr., H. Clarke, D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter – **32**

Noes: R. Azan, C. Brown, A. Brown Burke, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, N. Burchell, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, J. Daley, A. Dawes, M. Golding, D. Gordon, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, Z. Jess, H. Miller Bennett, N. Neita Garvey, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, A. Purkiss, J. Robinson, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, – **27**

Declined to Voted: - *Nil*

Absent: I. Hayles, D. McKenzie, and C. Warmington - **3**

Clause 3, as amended, was approved in the affirmative.

The following was proposed for clause 4:

In the marginal note to the clause, delete the word “the”.

On the question that clause 4, as amended, be approved, the House voted as follows:

Ayes: E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jr., H. Clarke, D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter – **32**

Noes: R. Azan, C. Brown, A. Brown Burke, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, N. Burchell, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, J. Daley, A. Dawes, M. Golding, D. Gordon, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, Z. Jess, H. Miller Bennett, N. Neita Garvey, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, A. Purkiss, J. Robinson, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, – **27**

Declined to Voted: - *Nil*

Absent: I. Hayles, D. McKenzie, and C. Warmington - 3

Clause 4, as amended, was approved in the affirmative.

In accordance with Standing Order 43(2), the Chairman formally named Dr. Angela Brown Burke for removing the mace from its designated position and directed that she be withdrawn for the remainder of the day's sitting on account of disorderly conduct.

The Committee meeting was suspended.

The House resumed.

The Speaker drew the attention of the House to the incident that occurred in Committee and requested that a vote be taken on Dr. Angela Brown Burke's removal from the sitting.

Pursuant to Standing Order 43(4), the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that the Member of Parliament for St. Andrew, South Western be suspended for the duration of the day's sitting. The motion was put to the House and agreed to. The Marshal was instructed to have the Member removed.

At 10:45 p.m., the House suspended its sitting.

At 11:00 p.m., the House resumed.

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

Clause 5 agreed to.

On the question that clause 6 be approved, the House voted as follows:

Ayes: E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jnr., H. Clarke, D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter— 32

Noes: R. Azan, C. Brown, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, N. Burchell, D. Campbell, L. Cousins, J. Daley, A. Dawes, 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, J. Robinson, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, — 26

Declined to Voted: - Nil

Absent: A. Brown Burke, D. Crawford, D. McKenzie, and C. Warmington - 4

Clause 6 was approved in the affirmative.

On the question that clause 7 be approved, the House voted as follows:

Ayes: E. Bartlett, H. Chang, P. Charles, Jnr., H. Clarke, D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter— 32

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

Declined to Voted: - Nil

Absent: A. Brown Burke, D. Crawford, I. Hayles, D. McKenzie, A. Purkiss and C. Warmington - **6**

Clause 7 was approved in the affirmative.

The following amendment was proposed for clause 8:

In the marginal note to the clause, delete the word “the”.

The clause, as amended, agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed to clause 9:

In sub-clause (1), delete the words “the Chief Executive Officer with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary” and substitute therefor the words “the Cabinet Secretary with the approval of the Cabinet”.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed to clause 10:

Delete the clause and substitute therefor the following –

- “Reports, returns, etc.10. - (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall prepare and submit to the Minister a report on the activities of the Authority in relation to the discharge of the Authority’s functions under this Act in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) The report referred to in subsection (1) shall be prepared in respect of an initial six-month period commencing after the appointed day, and every subsequent six-month period after that initial period.
- (3) The report made by the Chief Executive Officer under subsection (1) shall be submitted to the Minister within thirty days after the six-month period in relation to which the report is made, and the Chief Executive Officer shall afford the Minister with facilities for verifying such information in such manner and at such times as the Minister may reasonably require.
- (4) The Minister shall, as soon as is practicable, cause a copy of the report submitted under subsection (3) to be laid in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

On the question that clause 10 be approved, the House voted as follows:

Ayes: E. Bartlett, P. Charles, Jnr., H. Clarke, D. Chuck, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, M. Malahoo Forte, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, F. Witter, and D. W. Vaz – **31**

Noes: R. Azan, C. Brown, D. Campbell, I. Buchanan, P. Bunting, N. Burchell, L. Cousins, J. Daley, A. Dawes, 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, J. Robinson, K. Russell, Y. Shaw, and D. F. Vaz, – **25**

Declined to Voted: - *Nil*

Absent: A. Brown Burke, H. Chang, D. Crawford, D. McKenzie, A. Purkiss, and C. Warmington - **6**

Clause 10 was approved in the affirmative.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed to clause 13:

In sub-clause (1), insert next after the word “directions” the words “, in writing,”.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 16 agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed to clause 17:

1. In sub-clause (2)(a), insert next after the word “develop” the words “projects,”.
2. Insert next after sub-clause (3), the following –
 - “ (4) The Authority shall, in developing and for monitoring the implementation of reconstruction and resilience projects, programmes and plans, hold consultations with persons affected or likely to be affected by the implementation of a project.”
3. Insert next after the new sub-clause (4), the following –
 - “ (5) For the avoidance of doubt, a reference in this Act to a project shall be construed as a project included on the official list”.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 18 and 19 agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed to clause 20:

1. In sub-clause (1), insert next after the words “resilience projects and”, the words “designated strategic investment projects”.
2. In sub-clause (1)(a), delete the word “and”, and delete the words “of the approved project” and substitute therefor the words “and promoter of the project;”.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 25 agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed to clause 26:

New clause 26 Renumber clauses 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 as sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, respectively, and insert next after clause 25, the following –

“Exemption 26. Section 48B(2)(b), 48J and the Fourth Schedule to the Financial
From PIMS Administration and Audit Act shall not apply to approved reconstruction and resilience projects or designated strategic investment projects.”.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27 agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed to clause 28:

In the marginal note to the clause, delete the word “the”.

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed to clause 29:

Delete the words “section 31” and substitute therefor the words “section 32”.

Clause 29, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 30 to 35 agreed to.

The following amendments were proposed to the Schedule:

Renumber paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 as paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, respectively, and insert next after paragraph 4, the following –

- “Conflict of Interest.** 5. – (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall not have a direct interest in a procurement contract made or proposed to be made by the Authority.
- (2) Where the Chief Executive Officer has knowledge of a direct interest, the Chief Executive Officer shall forthwith disclose that interest, in writing, to the Minister.
- (3) On receipt of the disclosure referred to in subsection (2), the Minister may, if he thinks fit, require the Chief Executive Officer to dispose of such interest held by him within such time as the Minister may specify, in writing.”.

The Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Title and Enacting Clause agreed to.

The question that the Bill be reported to the House as having passed Committee stage with 20 amendments agreed to.

The House resumed.

The Bill having been reported to the House as having passed Committee stage with 20 amendments, Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development, moved 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 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, Jnr., D. Chuck, H. Clarke, R. Crawford, J. Cuthbert Flynn, M. Dalrymple Philibert, O. Grange, F. Green, T. Hamilton, A. Holness, K. Lee, A. Marks, Z. Mayne, R. Montague, R. Morgan, A. Morris, K. Morrison, J. Robertson, M. Samuda, D. Seiveright, D. Smith, A. Terrelonge, C. Tufton, D. W. Vaz, A. Wheatley, D. H. Williams, D. S. Williams, F. Williams, and F. Witter– **31**

Noes: I. Buchanan, N. Burchell, D. Campbell, J. Daley, M. Golding, W. Hinds, G. Hylton, F. Jackson, H. Miller Bennett, O. Newell, P. Paulwell, M. Phillips, J. Robinson, K. Russell, and Y. Shaw – **15**

Declined to Voted: - Nil

Absent: R. Azan, C. Brown, A. Brown Burke, P. Bunting, L. Cousins, D. Crawford, A. Dawes, D. Gordon, I. Hayles, Z. Jess, M. Malahoo Forte, D. McKenzie, N. Neita Garvey, A. Purkiss, D. F. Vaz, and C. Warmington - **16**

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

Seconded by: Mr. James Robertson
Agreed to

Clerk read the Bill a third time.

Bill passed with 20 amendments.

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” recommitted.

Seconded by: Dr. Dayton Campbell
Agreed to

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Ministry Paper
Numbered 23, 24 of 2025/2026

Titled:

Cabinet Agenda Issues Dated:
12 January 2026;
January 19, 2026; and
January 26, 2026 respectively
[Office of the Cabinet]

Overarching Policy for Jamaica’s Protected Areas System 2026
and its related

Ministry Paper
Numbered 26/2026

Titled:

Overarching Policy for Jamaica’s
Protected Areas System
[Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development]

National Cays Management Policy for Jamaica
and its related

Ministry Paper
Numbered 27/2026

Titled:

The National Cays Management Policy for Jamaica
[Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change]

Report of the
Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives
on its deliberations on the
Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule)
Regulations, 2026
[Houses of Parliament]

The General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules)
Order, 2026 and its Resolution
Under the General Consumption Tax Act
[Ministry of Finance and the Public Service]

Amendment to Ministry Paper Numbered 17/2026
Entitled:

Revenue Measures for the Financial Year 2026/2027
[Ministry of Finance and the Public Service]

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The Honourable Franklin Witter, Chairman of the Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives, ***the Report of the Regulations Committee of the Representatives on its deliberations on the Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026:***

1. ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Members of the Honourable House of Representatives are reminded that on the 21st day of October, 2025, the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of Government Business, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED that, notwithstanding Standing Order No. 68 (3) and in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 68(1)(e) and 73, this Honourable House appoints a Regulations Committee comprising the following Members:

- Hon. Franklin Witter- **Chairman**
- Hon. Donovan Williams
- Hon. Tova Hamilton
- Hon. Rhoda Crawford
- Mr. Andrew Morris
- Mr. Phillip Paulwell
- Mr. Isat Buchanan
- Ms. Zuleika Jess

The Terms of Reference as outlined in Standing Order No. 73 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives are as follows:

Establishment, Composition, and Powers of the Committee Cont'd

- (1) The Regulations Committee shall have the duty of considering all such regulations (as defined by the Interpretation Act as for the time being in force) as under the authority of any Acts are to be laid before the House and to be subject to negative resolution within the meaning of the Interpretation Act, and to bring to the special attention of the House any regulation or draft-
 - a. which involves the expenditure of public moneys or imposes or fixes fees for licences or for services;
 - b. which cannot be challenged in the Courts on the ground that it is *ultra vires*, or is only temporarily so challengeable;
 - c. the making of which appears to constitute an unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Act under which it was made;
 - d. which purports to have retrospective effect although the Act under which it was made does not in terms give the Minister such a power;
 - e. the publication or the laying before the House of which appears to have been unduly delayed;
 - f. as respects which there has been unjustifiable delay in notifying the Speaker that the instrument has come into operation before it was laid before the House; or
 - g. the purport or form of which appears to require elucidation.
- (2) The Regulations Committee shall not consider or report on the merits or policy of any regulations.”

Members are further reminded that on the 24th day of March, 2026, the Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 24th day of March, 2026 be referred to the Regulations Committee of the House for consideration and report.

Establishment, Composition, and Powers of the Committee Cont'd

Your Committee held **one (1)** meeting on the **16th day of April 2026**, in consideration of the matter. The Attendance Register for said meeting may be found at (**Appendix 1**). Representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) and the Financial Services Commission (FSC)

were invited to assist the Committee in our deliberations. Your Committee now has the honour to present its overview, findings and recommendations.

2. OVERVIEW

The Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026 proposes amendments to the fee structure for the Financial Services Commission (FSC). The power conferred upon the FSC to amend the Regulations is reflected in section 144 of the Insurance Act. The FSC utilizes a self-funding model that levies regulatory and supervisory fees on the entities it regulates. It is also a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), which requires the FSC to align with international best practices to maintain its independence, objectivity, and regulatory strength. As current regulatory expenses in the insurance industry, exceed revenues, creating a shortfall, in addition to the use of a cost recovery model, alignment of revenue with regulatory effort is required.

3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

Your Committee was informed that the amendments to the Twentieth Schedule of the Insurance Regulations, 2001 (principal Regulations) have been proposed to address the issue created by the regulatory expenses in the insurance industry exceeding revenues. The amendments intend to ensure full cost recovery and to eliminate cross-subsidisation between subsectors. To achieve this, your Committee understands that the revised Schedule now includes increases in fees for life insurers, general insurers, intermediaries, and administrative functions. It also introduces new fees, including those applicable to amalgamations and transfers, along with a revised methodology for calculating annual fees for both life and general insurers.

Your Committee was advised that paragraph 2 of the Regulations amends the Twentieth Schedule by deleting the old Schedule and replacing it with a new Twentieth Schedule that provides for updated and new industry fees and a revised calculation methodology as set out in the amended Twentieth Schedule found in (*Appendix II*).

Recommendation

Your Committee examined the Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026 and wishes to report our decision to the Honourable House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 73 (1).

Your Committee, having taken into consideration all the matters, ***raised no objections to the Regulations.***

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Committee wishes to express sincere gratitude to the representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, the Financial Services Commission, the Clerk to the Houses of Parliament and staff for their invaluable assistance and kind courtesies extended during the meeting.

Houses of Parliament
April 2025

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE
One (1) Meeting

Members	Present	Absent	Apology
Hon. Franklin Witter- Chair	✓	-	-
Hon. Donovan Williams	✓	-	-
Hon. Tova Hamilton	-	✓	✓
Hon. Rhoda Crawford	✓	-	-

Mr. Andrew Morris	✓	-	-
Mr. Phillip Paulwell	-	✓	✓
Mr. Isat Buchanan	-	✓	✓
Ms. Zuleika Jess		✓	✓

APPENDIX II

2

TWENTIETH SCHEDULE
(Fees in Jamaican Dollars)
(Regulation 164)

Regulated Entities	Jamaican & CARICOM COMPANIES	Foreign Companies	Association of Underwriters	Intermediaries									
				Brokers		Facilitative Placement Brokers		Reinsurance Brokers		Agents		Managing General Agents	
				Registration	Renewal	Registration	Renewal	Registration	Renewal	Registration	Renewal	Registration	Renewal
Classes of Insurance Business	Registration	Registration	Registration										
Industrial Life	200,000	200,000	150,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Ordinary Long Term	200,000	200,000	150,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Sickness and Health	200,000	200,000	150,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	3,000
Liability Insurance	100,000	100,000	150,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Marine, Aviation and Transport Insurance	100,000	100,000	50,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Presumary Loss Insurance	100,000	100,000	50,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Accident Insurance	100,000	100,000	50,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Accidental Insurance	100,000	100,000	50,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000
Property	100,000	100,000	50,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	9,100	8,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	1,000

Note: (1) All renewal fees in this table represent annual amounts.

APPENDIX II Cont'd

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(2) Renewal fees are payable quarterly to the Financial Services Commission except for those of Sales Representatives, Loss Adjusters, and Consultants who pay annually.

A - Renewal Fees – Intermediaries

*Pay fee indicated or 0.5% of earned commission, whichever is greater.

B - Renewal Fees - Insurance Companies

(1) Jamaican and CARICOM Life/ Sickness & Health Insurance Companies

A fee being the standard rate of 0.07% of total assets as per the last audited financial statement.

(2) Jamaican and CARICOM General Insurance Companies

A fee being the standard rate of 0.45% of total assets as per the last audited financial statement.

(3) Foreign Companies - Life/Sickness and Health and General Insurers

The fee will be charged on the above basis at (1) and (2) but on the assets relating to liabilities in Jamaica only.

Note: For fee computation, "Total Assets" are as shown in the Annual Statement as at December 31 of the previous year.

C - Renewal Fee Association of Underwriters

(1) Jamaican and CARICOM Association of Underwriters

A fee of \$500,000 OR the sum of:
First \$500 million of gross premiums (earned in Jamaica) at 0.10% and
Gross premium in excess of \$500 million at 0.05%, whichever is greater.

(2) Foreign Association of Underwriters

A fee of \$500,000 OR the sum of:
First \$500 million of gross premiums (earned in Jamaica) at 0.10% and
Gross premium in excess of \$500 million at 0.05%, whichever is greater.

APPENDIX II Cont'd

4

D-Other Fees

Services	Cost (\$)
Duplicate Certificate of Registration - Insurance Company and Association of Underwriters	5,000 per certificate
Duplicate Certificate of Registration - Intermediary	5,000 per certificate
Change of name, change of address or amendment [for] Insurance company and Association of Underwriters	3,000 per certificate
Change of name, change of address or amendment to Certificate of Registration - all Categories of Brokers and Agents	3,000 per certificate
Change of name, change of address or amendment to Certificate of Registration - sales representatives, consultants and loss adjusters.	1,000 per certificate
Copy Certificate of Registration - in all cases	1,000 per certificate
Late registration application in respect of intermediaries	2,000
Application Form [for] Insurance company and Association of Underwriters	4,500
Application Form Intermediaries	3,000
Approval of Insurance Contract	30,000.00 per policy contract
Amendment to Policy Contract	15,000.00 per policy contract
Identification Cards for Sales Representatives and any other Individual Registrant	2,000.00 each
Appeal to the Tribunal - Insurance company and Association of Underwriters	50,000.00
Appeal to the Tribunal - all categories of Brokers and Agents	30,000.00
Appeal to the Tribunal - Sales representatives, Consultants, and Loss Adjusters	4,000.00
E. Insurance Companies Amalgamation & Transfer Fee	
Application fee	\$525,000 per application

Dated this 11th day of March, 2026.

Ranford Breckman
Chairman, Financial Services Commission
Fayval Williams
Minister of Finance and the Public Service

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

The Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House she would move:

THE GENERAL CONSUMPTION TAX ACT

The General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules)
Order, 2026, Resolution

WHEREAS by virtue of section 60(1) of the General Consumption Tax Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) the Minister may by order published in the *Gazette* amend the Schedules to the Act:

AND WHEREAS the Schedules to the Act specify the general consumption tax and the special consumption tax imposed on the supply in Jamaica or the importation into Jamaica of goods and services:

AND WHEREAS on the 28th day of April, 2026, the Minister made the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 60(2) of the Act that an order amending the Schedules to the Act shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, be affirmed by resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House as follows: -

1. This Resolution may be cited as the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, Resolution.
2. The General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 28th day of April, 2026, is hereby affirmed.

She further gave notice that at a later stage that day she would move for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable her to take this motion.

The Honourable Franklin Witter, Chairman of the Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Report of the Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives on its deliberations on the Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 28th day of April, 2025, be adopted.

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 Franklin Witter, Chairman of the Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Report of the Regulations Committee of the House of Representatives on its deliberations on the Insurance (Amendment of Twentieth Schedule) Regulations, 2026, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 28th day of April, 2025, be adopted.

Seconded by: Mr. Duane Smith
Agreed to

The Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

THE GENERAL CONSUMPTION TAX ACT

**The General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules)
Order, 2026, Resolution**

WHEREAS by virtue of section 60(1) of the General Consumption Tax Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) the Minister may by order published in the *Gazette* amend the Schedules to the Act:

AND WHEREAS the Schedules to the Act specify the general consumption tax and the special consumption tax imposed on the supply in Jamaica or the importation into Jamaica of goods and services:

AND WHEREAS on the 28th day of April, 2026, the Minister made the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 60(2) of the Act that an order amending the Schedules to the Act shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, be affirmed by resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House as follows: -

1. This Resolution may be cited as the General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, Resolution.
2. The General Consumption Tax (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2026, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 28th day of April, 2026, is hereby affirmed.

Mr. Julian Robinson and Mr. Phillip Paulwell also spoke on the motion.

Seconded by: Mr. James Robertson
Agreed to

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:49 a.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: Mr. Wavell Hinds
Agreed to

On the motion for the adjournment:

The Speaker noted that, except for the Clerk of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC), all support staff who were present at the sitting would be required to attend the PAAC meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the same day, which could prove challenging. She further indicated that the PAAC Chairman insisted that the meeting proceed despite the adjournment time of the House and expressed sympathy for the staff required to attend. The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, stated that he would consult with the Leader of Opposition Business to determine whether he could convey a request to the PAAC Chairman for the meeting to be postponed.

At 1:51 a.m., on the motion for the adjournment being put, same was agreed to.

The House adjourned accordingly.

.....
Juliet Holness, MP
Speaker

