



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

5TH DAY OF MAY, 2026

The House met at 2:42 P.M. o'clock.

PRAYERS

Prayer was read by Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte.

The Speaker welcomed all present at 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.

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

Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development

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 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 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 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 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 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

The Honourable Delroy Hugh Williams, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local and Community Development

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

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. 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

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

The Speaker addressed the events that occurred at the previous sitting of the House concerning the removal of the Mace by the Member of Parliament for St. Andrew, South Western, and encouraged all Members to uphold the procedures of the House.

(Dr. Honourable Christopher Charles Tufton, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness, 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. Damion Orande Crawford, MP, St. Catherine, North Western, entered and took his seat).

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. Wavell Hinds
Agreed to

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

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

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

Dr. Angela Brown Burke 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.

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: Dr. Dayton Campbell

Agreed to

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the
SCJ Holdings Limited

For the Financial Year 2020/2021

and its related

Ministry Paper

Numbered 28/2026

Titled:

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the SCJ Holdings Limited
for the Year Ended March 31, 2021

[Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining]

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the
Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited

for the Year Ended March 31, 2022

and its related

Ministry Paper

Numbered 29/2026

Titled:

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited
for the Year Ended March 31, 2022

[Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining]

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the Jamaica Vacations Limited
for the Financial Year 2023/2024

[Ministry of Tourism]

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement of the Montego Bay Convention Centre
for the Financial Year 2022/2023

[Ministry of Tourism]

Annual Report of the

National Solid Waste Management Authority
for the Financial Year 2024/2025
[Ministry of Local Government and Community Development]

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 1st day of May, 2026, a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Amend the Cybercrimes Act, and to provide for connected matters” was passed without amendment.

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

Mr. George Hylton gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS Jamaica is currently experiencing a shortage of and instability in the supply of cement, a critical input for the construction, infrastructure, and manufacturing sectors;

AND WHEREAS this shortage threatens to delay urgently needed reconstruction and resilience works in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, including housing, public infrastructure, private sector facilities, and community-based resilience projects;

AND WHEREAS any prolonged or worsening cement supply disruption poses a serious risk to investor confidence, both domestic and foreign, and may result in the postponement or cancellation of strategic investments;

AND WHEREAS the said shortage and instability in cement supply can lead to significant job losses, reduced working hours, and business closures in sectors directly and indirectly dependent on construction activity, including small and medium-sized enterprises;

AND WHEREAS the current situation, if not effectively managed and mitigated, could escalate into a full-blown economic and social crisis, undermining national development goals, particularly in the post-Melissa reconstruction and resilience period;

AND WHEREAS there is a compelling need for transparent, timely, and comprehensive information to Parliament and the public regarding:

- a) the causes and expected duration of the cement supply shortage;
- b) the state of local production and import arrangements;
- c) pricing trends and potential anti-competitive practices;
- d) the impact on approved and pipeline public and private projects; and
- e) the measures being contemplated or implemented by the Government to stabilise supply, protect jobs, and safeguard investment;

AND WHEREAS Parliament must exercise its oversight responsibility to ensure that appropriate policies, regulatory actions, and contingency plans are in place to mitigate the risk of a full-blown crisis and to support a swift, equitable, and resilient reconstruction process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House calls upon the Government to immediately provide Parliament with a comprehensive briefing on the current cement supply situation, including data on production, imports, inventory levels, pricing, and the status of critical reconstruction and infrastructure projects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House calls upon the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and its Agencies to present clear and time-bound

plans to ensure that post-Melissa reconstruction and resilience works by households, private sector and government are not compromised;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the foregoing be referred to the Economy and Production Committee, and that the Committee be mandated to:

1. Conduct hearings and receive submissions from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, regulators, industry stakeholders, workers' representatives, and civil society regarding the current and projected cement supply situation;
2. Obtain and review detailed information on:
 - a) the causes, scale, and expected duration of the cement shortage;
 - b) the impact on existing and planned public and private investments, especially those related to post-Melissa reconstruction and resilience;
 - c) the implications for employment, particularly in construction and related sectors;
3. Examine and report on short-, medium-, and long-term policy, regulatory, and market-based options to:
 - a) mitigate the risk of a full-blown crisis arising from cement shortages;
 - b) secure reliable and affordable cement supply;
 - c) protect jobs and sustain investor confidence; and
 - d) ensure that national reconstruction and resilience objectives are met without undue delay;
4. Present to this Honourable House, within a specified timeframe, its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislative, regulatory, or policy measures necessary to address current and future risks related to cement supply and to safeguard Jamaica's reconstruction, resilience, investment climate, and employment.

Mr. Heroy Clarke, Deputy Speaker, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS a 2016 study by a leading local anthropologist revealed the rate of paternity fraud in Jamaica was at 25%;

AND WHEREAS Jamaica is one of the leading countries in the world with regard to the instant of paternity fraud;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for certainty of parenthood within our society to the fortified institution of families in Jamaica, in pursuant to National Outcomes Nos. 3 and 4 - Effective Social Protection, and an Authentic and Transformational Culture - of the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan;

AND WHEREAS it has been found that the revelation of paternity fraud or the misattributed paternity has led to several incidents of domestic violence in Jamaica which must be mitigated;

AND WHEREAS certainty of paternity would be a key mitigating factor of domestic violence in our society;

AND WHEREAS the advancement in technology allow for efficient and accurate DNA paternity testing to definitively determine paternity is now available in Jamaica;

AND WHEREAS certainty of paternity can be achieved by mandating that where it is desired that the name of the father be included on the birth certificate of a child born in Jamaica, a DNA paternity test be conducted to confirm the biological relationship between the child and the man desirous of being so named;

AND WHEREAS the cost of all mandatory DNA paternity test would be covered by the Government of Jamaica and facilitated through each Regional Health Authority;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House debate the issue of mitigating paternity fraud;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House take the necessary steps to amend the relevant sections of the *Registration (Births and Deaths) Act* and the *Status of Children Act* to allow for the additional requirement of mandatory confirmation of paternity by way of DNA paternity test.

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 to introduce and have read a first time the Bills shortly entitled, “the Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Act, 2026”, and the Bill shortly entitled, “the Conch (Export Levy) (Amendment) Act, 2026”.

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 first reading of the Bills.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS WITHOUT LEAVE OF THE HOUSE FIRST OBTAINED

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders moved that the Bills shortly entitled, “the Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Act, 2026”, and “the Conch (Export Levy) (Amendment) Act, 2026” be read a first time.

Clerk read the Bills a first time.

Notice of second reading given for both Bills.

The Minister further moved for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable him to take second reading of the Bill shortly entitled, “the Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Act, 2026” and to take it through all its concluding stages.

TRIBUTE

The House paid tribute to the late Honourable Hugh Hart, OJ, former Senator and Minister. Contributions were made by Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Minister of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development; Mr. Mark Golding; the Honourable Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism; the Honourable Desmond Augustus McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Community Development; and the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and Leader of the House.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Order, moved that a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Amend the Jamaica Dairy Development Board Act, expand the definition of milk in keeping with international standards; and provide for connected matters” be now read a second time.

Dr. Dayton Campbell, Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte, Mr. Damion Crawford, and Mr. Isat Buchanan also spoke on the motion.

Seconded by: Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte
Agreed to

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

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

The following amendment was proposed for clause 4(g):

Delete all the words after the word “chairman” and substitute therefor the words “and such resignation shall take effect from the effective date specified in the instrument”.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Title and Enacting Clause agreed to.

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

The House resumed.

The Bill having been reported as having passed Committee stage with one amendment, the Honourable Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and Leader of the House, moved that a Bill entitled, “AN ACT to Amend the Jamaica Dairy Development Board Act, expand the definition of milk in keeping with international standards; and provide for connected matters” be now read a third time.

Seconded by: Mr. Duane Smith
Agreed to

Clerk read the Bill a third time.

Bill passed with one amendment.

At 6:56 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. The Deputy Speaker, however, moved that the House do now adjourn to **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**.

Seconded by: Mr. Dwayne Vaz
Agreed to

The House adjourned accordingly.

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Juliet Holness, MP
Speaker