

Proceedings
of the
Honourable House of Assembly
Session of 2025-2026

No. 33

Friday, 20th March, 2026

Members Present:

His Honour the Speaker | The Hon. Jache A. K. Adams | Dr. Leroy G. W. Bean | The Hon. E. David G. Burt | Mr. Vance M. E. Campbell | The Hon. L Craig Cannonier | The Hon. Owen K. Darrell | Dr. Douglas S. J. De Couto | The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva | Mr. Curtis L. Dickinson | Rev. Dr. Emily G. A. Dill | Mr. T. Christopher Famous | Ms. Lovitta F. Foggo | The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert | The Hon. Wayne L. Furbert | The Hon. Jason P. Hayward | Mr. L. M. Robert King | The Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne | Mr. Dennis J. R. Lister | Mrs. Renée D. L. Ming | Mr. R. Scott Pearman | The Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain | Mr. Jarion C. Richardson | Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson | Mr. W. Lawrence A. Scott | Mr. Scott A. Simmons | Ms. Linda C. Smith | Mr. H. Kim E. Swan | Ms. Robin S. Tucker | Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell | The Hon. Michael A. Weeks | Mr. Paul G. E. Wilmot | The Hon. Kim N. Wilson

This meeting of the House was held at the House Chamber, 3rd Floor, Veritas Place, 65 Court Street, City of Hamilton.

10:03 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 11th March 2026 were confirmed.

Minutes of the Meetings of 13th and 16th March 2026 were deferred.

Announcements by the His Honour the Speaker

His Honour the Speaker informed Members that Hon. M. M. Fahy and Mr. J. S. Simmons will be absent from today's proceedings.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

10:06 a.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, on behalf of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, read the following communications to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Corporate Income Tax (Tax Refund Reserve Fund) Amendment Regulations 2026"**, as made by the Minister of Finance in exercise of the power conferred by section 50A of the Corporate Income Tax Act 2023;

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva on behalf of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, read the following communications to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Economic Substance Amendment Regulations 2026."**, as made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 11 of the Economic Substance Act 2018.

10:07 a.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Merchant Shipping (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026"**, proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for maritime administration, in exercise of the power conferred by section 250 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2002.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell, on behalf of Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Amendment Regulations 2026"**, proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for Justice, in exercise of the power conferred by section 49 (3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997 and section 12A of the Anti-Terrorism (Financial and Other Measures) Act 2004.

10:08 a.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

“I have the honour to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **“Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027-Strategic Priority 5: Investing in People- 2023-2027 Update.”**”

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

10:09 a.m.

Statement entitled “Updates and Improvements to Government Camping Facilities” was read by the Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport.

10:15 a.m.

Statement entitled “Bermuda’s 2026 CARIFTA Delegation” was read by the Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport.

10:20 a.m.

Statement entitled “Revival of the CyberTips Programme” was read by the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation.

10:28 a.m.

Statement entitled “Rental Support Services (Emergency Subsidy) Pilot Programme - Hardship Fund – Update and Impact” was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:35 a.m.

Statement entitled “Updates on the Bermuda Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027-Strategic Priority 5: People” was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

10:42 a.m.

Statement entitled “Public Safety Awareness Seminars” was read by the Hon. M. A. Weeks, Minister of National Security.

10:47 a.m.

Statement entitled “Inaugural “Dollars and Sense” Teen Financial Literacy Experience” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:54 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker informed the Hon. B. A. Smith that Written Responses to the following Parliamentary Questions to Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, will be deferred to May 1, 2026:

1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House whether formal performance evaluations are conducted for teachers, school principals, paraprofessionals, and education officers within the Ministry of Education?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House how many teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and Ministry administrators were identified as underperforming through formal evaluations, for each of the past five academic years?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House how many teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and Ministry administrators were placed on performance improvement plans, disciplinary action, reassignment, or removal from their position for each of the past five academic years?

10:55 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. L. C. Cannonier:

1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the actual expenditure details for Education Grants to external bodies for the past five years, showing each body and the grant received?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total grant application amounts requested by external bodies for the past five years, showing each body and the grant requested?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the breakdown by school for upgrades and renovations for the past five years, showing details of the work undertaken and the associated cost.

10:56 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, provided an Oral Response to Parliamentary Question from Ms. R. S. Tucker:

*1. Will the Junior Minister please confirm the name of any current or former Members of Parliament who were paid for any work on the development of the Office of the Public Guardian and the total amount that has been paid to them to present date?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

10:58 a.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Ms. R. S. Tucker:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please advise what specific criteria, safeguards and oversight mechanisms the Ministry and/or the Department of Child and Family Services use when selecting and approving overseas therapeutic schools for Bermudian children, including how such institutions are accredited, evidence based, culturally appropriate, and subject to adequate child-protection standards?

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker provided clarification on her second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:04 a.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a supplementary question

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a second supplementary question

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:05 a.m.

*2. Will the Honourable Minister please confirm what monitoring is conducted once a child is placed overseas to ensure their safety (including physical and psychological safety), well-being and educational progress?

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:09 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

11:10 a.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert (PoO)

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Question Period

11:13 a.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. O. K. Darrell a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Updates and Improvements to Government Camping Facilities".

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second question.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

11:17 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker acknowledged the presence of former Senator and Attorney General, Mr. Phil Perinchief in the Public Gallery.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a question

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

11:21 a.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Revival of the CyberTips Programme”.

The Hon. Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Rental Support Services (Emergency Subsidy) Pilot Programme - Hardship Fund – Update and Impact”.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a third question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:28 a.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:29 a.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:31 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a third question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:37 a.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell provided updated information to questions from Mr. D. V. Robinson.

Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches
(Please refer to the House Hansard)

11:39 a.m. - The Hon. W. L. Furbert

11:42 a.m. – Mr. L. M. R. King

Ms. R. S. Tucker

11:45 a.m.- Mr. T. C. Famous

11:48 a.m.- Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

11:49 a.m.- Mr. D. V. Robinson

11:50 a.m.- Mr. H. K. E. Swan

11:51 a.m.- His Honour the Speaker

Introduction of Bills

11:52 a.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Cost of Living Commission Amendment Act 2026”.

Orders of the Day

11:53 a.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that the Bill entitled the “Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2026” be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert spoke on the Bill.

12:06 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

12:08 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

12:10 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

12:13 p.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward

12:21 p.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert replied.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

12:22 p.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved Clauses 1-4, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1-4 were agreed to, as printed.

The Schedule was agreed to.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as printed, which was agreed to.

12:26 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House do now adjourn for lunch, which was agreed to.
The House adjourned for lunch.

2:00 p.m.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

2:01 p.m.

With the Governor’s recommendation signified, the Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that consideration be given to the draft Order entitled the “Government Fees Amendment Regulations 2026” proposed to made by the Minister of Finance in exercise of the power conferred by section 2 of the Government Fees Act 1965, which was agreed to.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams spoke on the draft Regulations.

2:08 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:09 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams replied.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that the said draft Regulations be approved and a suitable message be sent to His Excellency the Governor, which was agreed to.

2:11 p.m.

Item 4 on the Order Paper was taken up before Item 3.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that Standing Order 23 be suspended to enable her to present revised draft Regulations entitled the “Health Insurance (Standard Health Benefit) Amendment Regulations 2026”, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that consideration be given to the revised draft Regulations entitled the “Health Insurance (Standard Health Benefit) Amendment Regulations 2026”, proposed to made by the Minister for Health, acting on the recommendation of the Council, in

exercise of the power conferred by section 40 of the Health Insurance Act 1970, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson spoke on the draft Regulations.

2:18 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

2:19 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that the said draft Regulations be approved and a suitable message be sent to His Excellency the Governor, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that the Bill entitled the "Health Insurance (Mutual Re-Insurance Fund) (Prescribed Sum) Validation Act 2026" be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson spoke on the Bill.

2:21 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

The Hon. K. N. Wilson replied.

2:23 p.m.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved Clauses 1-2, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1-2 were agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as printed, which was agreed to.

2:26 p.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert, on behalf of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that in accordance with Standing Order 43 (4) and 43 (5) that the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved, which was agreed to.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert, on behalf of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply for further consideration of the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for Financial Year 2025/2026, which was agreed to.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair for Committee of Supply.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert spoke on the Supplementary Estimate.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that the following Item 1 Ministry of Finance Head be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 11 Accountant General

2:35 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:36 p.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert replied.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that Item 1 Head 11, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that the following Item 2 Ministry of Health Head be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 24 Hospitals

2:39 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

2:40 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva

2:41 p.m.

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell

The Hon. J. P. Hayward

2:43 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

2:45 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

The Hon. K. N. Wilson (PoO)

2:46 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson replied.

2:47 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that Item 2 Head 24, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The report of the Committee was agreed to, as printed.

2:49 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 29(1) be suspended so that the House may now proceed with the Second Reading of the new Bill entitled “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026” which was given First Reading March 16th, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026” be now read second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt spoke on the Bill.

2:54 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:56 p.m.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 1-2, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1-2 were agreed to, as printed.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clause 3 and an amendment to Clause 3, which was agreed to.

The amendment to Clause 3 was agreed to.

Clause 3 was agreed to, as amended.

3:02 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 4-6, which was agreed to.

3:03 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

3:04 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt asked His Honour the Speaker if Dr. D. S. J. De Couto could ask his question again.

3:05 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked his question again.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

Clauses 4-6 was agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as amended, which was agreed to.

3:07 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 29(1) be suspended so that the House may now proceed with the Second Reading of the new Bill entitled “Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026” which was given First Reading March 16th, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Bill entitled the “Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026” be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt spoke on the Bill.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

3:16 p.m.

Mr. C. L. Dickinson

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

3:17 p.m.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

3:18 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 1-6, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1-6 were agreed to, as printed.

3:21 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 7-14, which was agreed to.

Clauses 7-14 were agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as printed, which was agreed to.

3:27 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled “Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, the Bill entitled “Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams, on behalf of the Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled “Health Insurance (Mutual Re-Insurance Fund) (Prescribed Sum) Validation Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. J. A. K. Adams, the Bill entitled “Health Insurance (Mutual Re-Insurance Fund) (Prescribed Sum) Validation Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, the Bill entitled “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

3:28 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled “Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, the Bill entitled “Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Friday March 27th, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

3:29 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

3:30 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

3:50 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker

3:57 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

4:10 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith

4:16 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous

4:25 p.m.

The House adjourned.