

Proceedings
of the
Honourable House of Assembly
Session of 2026-2027

No.31

Friday, 13th 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 | The Hon. Michael M. Fahy | 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. Jamahl S. Simmons | Mr. Scott A. Simmons | The Hon. Ben A. Smith | 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.

10:02 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 6th and 9th March, 2026 were confirmed.

Announcements by the Speaker

His Honour the Speaker informed Members of the absence of, Mr. T. C. Famous from the House of Assembly proceedings.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

The Hon D. V. S. Rabain, on behalf of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, 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 **“Government Fees Amendment Regulations 2026”**, proposed to be made by the Minister of finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 2 of the Government Fees Act 1965.

10:06 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 2: Business Attraction and Investment Promotion-2023-2027 Update”**.”

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

10:07 a.m.

Statement entitled “Royal Bermuda Regiment Deployment to Jamaica-Hurricane Melissa Recovery Support” was read by the Hon. M. A. Weeks, Minister of National Security.

10:16 a.m.

Statement entitled “Unlocking Imports: Addressing Industry’s Call to Diversify Imports” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:24 a.m.

Statement entitled “Updates on the Bermuda Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027- Strategic Priority 2: Business Attraction and Investment Promotion” was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

10:29 a.m.

Statement entitled “Building Permit and SAFEbuilt Update” was read by the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation.

Premier’s Questions

10:33 a.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to casino gaming in Bermuda.

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

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

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

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

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

10:40 a.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a second question in reference to Public Education.

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

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

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

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

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

10:48 a.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to Tourism.

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

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

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

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

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

10:54 a.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to Capital Investments.

10:55 a.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson (PoO)

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

Mr. H. K. E. Swan asked a supplementary question.

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

Mr. H. K. E. Swan asked a second supplementary question.

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

10:58 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

11:00 a.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to Quarry Property.

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

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a supplementary question.

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

11:03 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to Middle East Advisor.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied. (Time expired)

Question Period

11:04 a.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Unlocking Imports: Addressing Industry’s Call to Diversify Imports”.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a second question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a third question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches

(Please refer to the House Hansard)

11:09 a.m.- Mr. L. M. R. King

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams

11:10 a.m.- The Hon. O. K. Darrell

11:12 a.m.- Mr. H. K. E. Swan

11:16 a.m.- Mr. D. J. R. Lister

11:19 a.m.- The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

11:21 a.m.- Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill

11:22 a.m.- Mr. J. S. Simmons

11:24 a.m.- Mr. N. S. Tyrrell

11:26 a.m.- His Honour the Speaker

Orders of the Day

11:28 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House resolve into Committee of Supply for further consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027, which was agreed to.

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

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that the following Ministry of National Security Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to: -

- 83 Ministry of National Security Headquarters
- 06 Defence
- 07 Police
- 12 Customs
- 45 Fire Service
- 88 National Drug Control

12:07 p.m.

Ms. L. F. Foggo acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Michael Scott in the Public Gallery.

12:27 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that the House do now adjourn for lunch, which was agreed to.

The House adjourned for lunch.

2:01 p.m.

The House resumed in Committee of Supply.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks continued with Head 06.

3:06 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman in the Chair.

4:12 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman acknowledged the presence of Senator Ms. Lindsay K. Simmons in the Public Gallery.

5:07 p.m.

Mr. S. A. Simmons in the Chair.

5:19 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

5:32 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith

5:35 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

5:42 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks replied.

5:46 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King (PoO)

5:50 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks replied.

5:57 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks acknowledged the presence of his son in the Public Gallery.

5:58 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

6:02 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that Heads 83, 06, 07, 12, 45 and 88 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

6:04 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the following Ministry of Housing and Municipalities Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 90 Ministry of Housing and Municipalities Headquarters
- 53 Bermuda Housing Corporation

7:01 p.m.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott in the Chair.

7:07 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

7:40 p.m.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott acknowledged the presence of former MP Mr. Dwayne Caines in the Public Gallery.

7:48 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

7:58 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

8:10 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

8:19 p.m.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott

8:26 p.m.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott acknowledged the presence of Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson and former Senator Arianna Hodgson in the Public Gallery.

8:31 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

8:41 p.m.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott

8:43 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

8:52 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

8:53 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

8:55 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

8:56 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that Heads 90 and 53 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. moved that the Committee rise, report progress and ask for leave to sit again 16th March, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, which was agreed to.

8:58 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the Bill entitled the "Municipalities Reform Act 2026" be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva spoke on the Bill.

9:12 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

9:32 p.m.

Ms. R. D. L. Ming

9:47 p.m.

Ms. L. F. Foggo

9:52 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

10:05 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

10:09 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

10:19 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

10:22 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson (PoO)

10:23 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson (PoO)

10:24 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

10:33 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

10:35 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

10:36 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

10:39 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

10:43 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

10:46 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson (PoO)

10:49 p.m.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved Clauses 1-12, 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.

10:57 p.m.

There were objections to the Bill being reported to the House as printed.

10:58 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

10:59 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

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

11:00 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled "Municipalities Reform Act 2026" be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the Bill be read a third time.

11:01 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

11:02 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker

11:05 p.m.

A vote was called on the third reading of the Bill:-

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams-**Yes**
Rev Dr. L. G. W. Bean-**Yes**
The Hon. E. D. G. Burt-**Yes**
Mr. V. M. E. Campbell-**No**
The Hon. L. C. Cannonier-**No**
The Hon. O. K. Darrell-**Yes**
Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto- **No**
The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva-**Yes**
Mr. C. L. Dickinson-**Absent**
Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill-**Yes**
The Hon. M. M. Fahy-**No**
Mr. T. C. Famous-**Absent**
Ms. L. F. Foggo-**Absent**
The Hon. T. S. Furbert-**Yes**
The Hon. W. L. Furbert-**Yes**
The Hon. J. P. Hayward-**Yes**
Mr. L. M. R. King-**No**
The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne-**Yes**
Mr. D. J. R. Lister- **Yes**
Mrs. R. D. L. Ming-**Absent**
Mr. R. S. Pearman-**No**
The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain-**Yes**
Mr. J. C. Richardson-**No**
Mr. D. V. Robinson-**No**
Mr. W. L. A. Scott-**Yes**
Mr. J. S. Simmons-**Absent**
Mr. S. A. Simmons-**Yes**
The Hon. B. A. Smith-**No**
Ms. L. C. Smith-**No**
Mr. H. K. E. Swan-**Yes**
Ms. R. S. Tucker-**No**
Mr. N. S. Tyrrell-**Yes**
The Hon. M. A. Weeks-**Yes**
Mr. P. G. E. Wilmot-**Yes**
The Hon. K. N. Wilson-**Yes**

11:09 p.m.

The third reading of the Bill was affirmed on division by 19 votes to 11.

11:10 p.m.

On the motion of the Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, the Bill entitled “Municipalities Reform Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

11:11 p.m.

Item numbers 3-5 on the Order Paper were carried over.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Monday March 16th, 2026, which was agreed to.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward

11:16 p.m.

Mr. S. A. Simmons

11:29 p.m.

House Adjourned