

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

**No. 5**

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**

**Members Present:**

His Honour the Speaker | The Hon. Jache A. K. Adams | 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. DeCouto | The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva | Mr. Curtis L. Dickinson | Rev. Dr. Emily Gail. A Dill | The Hon. Michael M. Fahy | 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 | The Hon. Jarion C. Richardson | Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson | Mr. W. Lawrence A. Scott | Mr. Jamahl S. Simmons | Mr. Scott A. Simmons | Mr. Ben A. Smith | Ms. Linda C. Smith | Mr. H. Kim E. Swan | Mrs. 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Veritas Place, 65 Court Street, City of Hamilton.**

**10:01 a.m.**

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025 were confirmed.

**10:03 a.m.**

**Announcements by the Speaker**

His Honour the Speaker informed Members of the absence of Dr. Leroy G. W. Bean, from the House of Assembly proceedings.

**Papers and Other Communications to the House**

**10:04 a.m.**

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Municipalities 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 “Bermuda Housing Trust Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2024”.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert, Junior Minister of Finance 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 “Public Service Superannuation Fund-Actuarial Valuation as at March 31, 2020 for Funding Purposes”.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert, Junior Minister of Finance 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 “Ministers and Members of the Legislature Pension Fund-Actuarial Valuation as at March 31, 2020 for Funding Purposes”.

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 “Registry General Annual Report for the year ended 31 December, 2023- Births, Marriages, Domestic Partnerships and Deaths” in accordance with section 19 of the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act 1949.

**Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers**

**10:05 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Bermuda Housing Trust-Audited Financial Statements & Current Challenges” was read by

the Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Municipalities

**10:15 a.m.**

Statement entitled “2020 Actuarial Review of Public Service Superannuation Fund & Ministers and Members of the Legislature Pension Fund” was read by the Hon. Wayne L. Furbert, Junior Minister of Finance.

**10:22 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Department of Labour Act 2025” was read by the Hon. Jason P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour

**10:25 a.m.**

Statement entitled “The Annual Report of the Registry General 2023” was read by the Hon. Jason P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour

**10:33 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Foster Care Month-May 2025” was read by the Hon. Tinée S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

**10:41 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Paving the Way Forward: Road Safety, Infrastructure and Community Improvements” was read by the Hon. Jache A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment

**10:53 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Bermuda’s Participation in the 2025 Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF)” was read by the Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

**10:57 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Update on the Bulk Generation Sole Use Installation (BGSUI) Licence” was read by the Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

**11:01 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Camp Connect Season 2: Summer Camp Registration” was read by the Hon. Owen K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Culture and Sport

**Premier’s Questions**

**11:05 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to road works.

**11:06 a.m.**

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

**11:07 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

**11:08 a.m.**

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

**11:09 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second supplementary question.

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

**11:10 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second question in reference to the Government’s immediate action plans regarding the recent shooting incidents.

**11:11 a.m.**

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

**11:12 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

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

**11:14 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a third question in reference to Bermuda missing the deadline for filing beneficial ownership registers.

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

**11:15 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

**11:16 a.m.**

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

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second supplementary question.

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

**11:18 a.m.**

Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the steps the Government has taken to increase competition in the banking sector and making mortgage transfers easier for Bermudians.

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

**11:21 a.m.**

Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill asked a supplementary question.

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

**11:22 a.m.**

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the Government having any plans to adjust the Corporate Income Tax based on the new ruling from the OECD.

**11:24 a.m.**

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

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

**11:25 a.m.**

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

**11:26 a.m.**

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

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

**11:27 a.m.**

Mr. P. G. E. Wilmot asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to an update on the Mortgage Guarantee Programme and the number of Bermudians assisted by the initiative.

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

**11:29 a.m.**

Mr. P. G. E. Wilmot asked a supplementary question.

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

**11:31 a.m.**

Mr. P. G. E. Wilmot asked a second supplementary question.

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

**11:32 a.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to feedback from the retail sector since the announcement of the increase in Customs Duty for people coming through the airport.

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

**11:34 a.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

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

### **Question Period**

**11:36 a.m.**

**The Hon. E. David G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Dr. Douglas S. J. De Couto:-**

\*1. Will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide for this Honourable House the number of staff planned to be employed by the Corporate Income Tax Agency when fully staffed according to its planned operating model, and the number of staff currently employed today at the Corporate Income Tax Agency?

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

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

\*2. Regarding pay rises for Government employees as per the Premier's statement on 21 March, 2025, will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide this Honourable House the most recent version of the payment schedule as of today, for back pay as well as, for when pay rises will go into effect for pay going forward?

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

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

\*3. Will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide this Honourable House with the estimated Government cashflows, by month in calendar year 2025,

broken out by revenue, expenditure and capital spending, in millions?

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

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

**11:46 a.m.**

**The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Municipalities provided Written Response to the following Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. Michael M. Fahy:-**

1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total number of properties owned or under the control of the Bermuda Housing Corporation, broken down by name of property and address, and identify whether the properties are occupied for purposes of housing, currently empty or being used for storage or other non-housing purposes?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total number of properties owned or under the control of the West End Development Corporation/Bermuda Land Management Corporation broken, down by name of property and address, and identify whether the properties are occupied for purposes of housing, currently empty or being used for storage or other non-housing purposes?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total number of properties owned or under the control of the Bermuda Land Development Company/Bermuda Land Management Corporation, broken down by name of property and address, and identify whether the properties are occupied for purposes of housing, currently empty or being used for storage or other non-housing purposes?

**The Hon. Jache A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and the Environment to provided Written Response to the following Parliamentary Question from the Hon. L. Craig Cannonier:-**

1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total number of properties owned by the Government of Bermuda under the control and/or management of the Ministry of Public Works and Environment including:
  - (i) the property name (if any), the property address and Ministry building/property identifying number;
  - (ii) identifying whether the said properties are occupied and by whom and for what purpose;
  - (iii) identifying whether the said properties are vacant?

**The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors to provide Oral Response to the following Parliamentary Question from Ms. Linda C. Smith:-**

- \*1. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with the total cost to the taxpayer, including airfare/travel cost, accommodation and per diem fees for the 15-person Bermuda delegation to attend the International Women's Leaders Conference held in Dubai, in March of this year?

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

**11:51 a.m.**

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked the Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Bermuda Housing Trust-Audited Financial Statements & Current Challenges."

**11:52 a.m.**

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

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

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

**11:53 a.m.**

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

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

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

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

**11:54 a.m.**

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

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

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

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

**11:55 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a question.

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

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

**11:56 a.m.**

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

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second question.

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

**11:57 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a third question.

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

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell asked a question.

**11:58 a.m.**

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

**11:59 a.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked the Hon. W. L. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “2020 Actuarial Review of Public Service Superannuation Fund & Ministers and Members of the Legislature Pension Fund”.

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

**12:00 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second question.

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

**12:01 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

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

**12:02 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second supplementary question.

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

**12:03 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Department of Labour Act 2025”.

**12:04 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second question.

**12:05 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “The Annual Report of the Registry General 2023”.

**12:06 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second question.

**12:07 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:08 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:09 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson asked a second supplementary question.

**12:11 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a supplementary question.

**12:12 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a question.

**12:13 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:14 p.m.**

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:15 p.m.**

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a second question.

**12:16 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman (PoC)

**12:17 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a third question.

**12:18 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:19 p.m.**

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:20 p.m.**

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

**12:21 p.m.**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva (PoO)

**12:22 p.m.**

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:23 p.m.**

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

**12:25 p.m.**

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked the Hon. J. A. K. Adams a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Paving the Way Forward: Road Safety, Infrastructure and Community Improvements.”

**12:26 p.m.**

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

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked a supplementary question.

**12:27 p.m.**

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

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked a second supplementary question.

**12:28 p.m.**

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

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked a second question.

**12:29 p.m.**

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

**12:30 p.m.**

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked a third question.

**12:32 p.m.**

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

**12:33 p.m.**

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Bermuda’s Participation in the 2025 Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF).”

**12:34 p.m.**

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

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

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

**12:35 p.m.**

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

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

**12:36 p.m.**

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

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

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

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

**12:37 p.m.**

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva 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.

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

**2:01 p.m.**-The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

**2:05 p.m.**-The Hon. J. C. Richardson

**2:06 p.m.**-Ms. L. F. Foggo

**2:08 p.m.**-The Hon. W. L. Furbert

**2:10 p.m.**-The Hon. O. K. Darrell

**2:13 p.m.**-The Hon. J. P. Hayward

**2:15 p.m.**-The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva

**2:18 p.m.**-Mr. N. S. Tyrrell

**2:21 p.m.**-Mr. S. A. Simmons

**2:24 p.m.**-Mr. H. K. E. Swan

**2:27 p.m.**-Ms. R. S. Tucker

**2:29 p.m.**-Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

**2:30 p.m.**-Mr. D. V. Robinson

**2:33 p.m.**-Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill

**2:35 p.m.**-The Hon. T. S. Furbert

**2:38 p.m.**-Mr. D. J. R. Lister

**2:41 p.m.**-His Honour the Speaker

**Orders of the Day**

**2:47 p.m.**

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2025/2026 be approved, which was agreed to.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoC)

**2:48 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto, Shadow Minister of Finance, presented the Opposition Reply to the Budget Statement by the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance.

**3:58 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker acknowledged the presence of the former Opposition Leader, The Hon. N. H. Cole Simons, in the Public Gallery.

His Honour the Speaker called on the Hon. W. L. Furbert, Junior Minister of Finance as the first Government speaker on the General Economic Debate on the 2025/2026 Budget Statement.

**4:33 p.m.**- Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

**4:34 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. W. L. Furbert continued.

**4:57 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. J. C. Richardson

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva (PoO)

**5:00 p.m.**

Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto (PoO)

**5:01 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:08 p.m.**-The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:09 p.m.**- The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:10 p.m.**-Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:12 p.m.**- The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:17 p.m.**- Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

**5:18 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:20 p.m.**

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva (PoO)

**5:21 p.m.**

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:22 p.m.**-The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

The Hon. J. C. Richardson continued.

**5:27 p.m.**-Mr. B. A. Smith

**5:31 p.m.**- Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

**5:32 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:34 p.m.**-The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:35 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva (PoO)

**5:36 p.m.**- The Hon. M. M. Fahy (PoC)

**5:37 p.m.**- The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:38 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:39 p.m.**- The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:40 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:42 p.m.**- Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

**5:43 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:44 p.m.**- Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

Mr. R. S. Scott (PoO)

**5:45 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:46 p.m.**- Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:51 p.m.**- The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:53 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**5:54 p.m.**- The Hon. J. P. Hayward (PoO)

**5:55 p.m.**

Mr. B. A. Smith continued.

**6:00 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva

**6:15 p.m.**- The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva continued.

**6:18 p.m.**- The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva continued.

**6:19 p.m.**- The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva continued.

**6:20 p.m.**- The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

**6:21 p.m.**

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva continued.

**6:25 p.m.**

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Municipalities, moved that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply to consider the



Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2025/2026, which was agreed to.

**6:26 p.m.**

The House resolved into Committee of Supply.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved Heads 87 (Ministry of Justice Headquarters), 03 (Judicial Department), 04 (Attorney General's Chambers) 25 (Department of Corrections) 74 (Department of Court Services) and 75 (Department of Public Prosecutions).

The Hon. Z. J. S. Desilva moved that the Committee rise, report progress and ask for leave to sit again 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

**6:28 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

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

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

**6:29 p.m.** -Mr. J. S. Simmons

**6:34 p.m.** -Mr. T. C. Famous

**6:38 p.m.** -Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

**6:39 p.m.** - Mr. T. C. Famous continued.

**6:43 p.m.**

His Honour the Speaker

**6:44 p.m.**

The House adjourned.