

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 125TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),
Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),
Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Agriculture

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. B. H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry
and Commerce (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Albert A. Atkinson, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

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***Non-Elected Minister**

****Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

Mr. Lloyd J. Pereira, J.P., M.P. (Absent)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) **Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

4.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms. Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P.

5.

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent)

Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

OFFICERS (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 3.17 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments):

Ninth Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission.

(Circulated)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. WAGES AND SALARIES OF CONTRACT WORKERS

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

On behalf of the many who are curious about the tilt in the expenditure of wages and salaries in favour of contract workers as against fixed establishment workers, what explanation would the Minister give for this?

(Notice Paper No. 437 (Q316 Opp291) published on 2010-03-05)

Answer:

The Public Service Commission is responsible for the appointment of Pensionable employees. Employment of all other categories fall within the ambit of the Public Service Ministry.

2. GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON WAGES AND SALARIES

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

Can the Honourable Minister state the Government's policy on wages and salaries in relation to a healthy diet vis a vis the cost of living, the percentage of expenditure and real increases?

(Notice Paper No. 438 (Q317 Opp292) published on 2010-03-05)

Answer:

The sum total reflected in the expenditure of wages and salaries as it relates to contracted workers is dependent on:

- (a) the number of workers employed; and
- (b) the categories of workers

7.

3. **ACTING POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

Can the Honourable Minister tell us how many acting positions there are across the public service and the strategy to confirm these persons?

(Notice Paper No. 439 (Q318 Opp293) published on 2010-03-05)

Answer:

(a) 26 acting positions

(b) Confirmation is based on performance and qualification of the persons

4. **TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

Can the Honourable Minister say whether the travelling allowances for public servants, which have remained unchanged since 1995, will be reviewed in 2010?

(Notice Paper No. 440 (Q319 Opp294) published on 2010-03-05)

Answer:

Yes

8.

5. **CONTROL OF GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Can the Honourable Prime Minister say if there is any intention to bring the GPL under real, rather than nominal, regulatory control of the PUC?

(Notice Paper No. 441 (Q320 Opp295) published on 2010-03-05)

Answer:

The GPL is under real regulatory control of the PUC, as would be evident in researching and studying records of all the interactions between the PUC and the GPL.

For Oral Replies

6. **PRINTING OF GRADE SIX EXAMINATION PAPERS IN GUYANA**

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (i) *Will the Hon. Minister state whether or not he is satisfied that the process relating to the printing of grade six examination papers in Guyana is not and has not been compromised?
- (ii) *Is the Minister satisfied that the Contractor(s) awarded contracts to print the grade six assessment papers are not related in anyway to senior teachers of schools who take this exam?
- (iii) *If such a relationship exists, will the Minister undertake to review/examine the results of schools at which the contractor(s) have relatives teaching from the time the contracts were awarded to present?

9.

- (iv) *What steps have the Hon. Minister taken to ensure the integrity of the examination as well as the future well being of the students taking such exams?

(Notice Paper No. 462 (Q331 Opp306) published on 2010-04-29)

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

7. **SALE OF ECO-SYSTEM SERVICES**

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P. asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications the following questions:

1. *Will the Hon. Prime Minister state whether an agreement has been made/signed with a private company and Iwokrama with respect to the sale of eco-system services in that area?
2. *If an agreement is in force, when will these details be made public?

(Notice Paper No. 464 (Q333 Opp308) published on 2010-05-03)

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

**ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BILL 2009**

The Minister of Health (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Persons with Disabilities Bill 2009) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on Persons with Disabilities Bill 2009 – Bill No. 44 of 2009 be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 466 (M134 Govt 84) published on 2010-05-18)

While the Minister of Health was speaking to the motion some Members of the People's National Congress/Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. George Norton

Rev. Kwame Gilbert

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo

Thereafter the Minister of Health replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL – THIRD READING

ITEM 2 - PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 44/2009 published on 2009-11-19

The Minister of Health (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Persons with Disabilities Bill 2009) moved the third reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide certain rights to persons with disabilities; to provide for the promotion and protection and full and equal enjoyment of the rights; to facilitate the enforcement of the rights; to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability; to provide for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; to provide for the registration of persons with disabilities; to establish the National Commission on Disabilities; and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2009-11-19)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-11-26)

Thereafter the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2009, was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONCLUSION OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 2004 REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION

The Prime Minister (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Conclusion of the Consideration of the 2004 Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Conclusion of the Consideration of the 2004 Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 468 (M135 Govt 85) published on 2010-06-03)

12.

While the Prime Minister was speaking to the motion the Members of the People's National Congress/Reform returned to the Chamber.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.15 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Raphael Trotman

The Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

At 7.05 p.m., the Members of the People's National Congress/Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

**ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL FOOD PRICE INCREASES**

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Impact of
Global Food Price Increases be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 455 (M130 Govt 82) published on 2010-03-17)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.53 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and
Communications, the Assembly as adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

10th June, 2010.

