

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 129TH 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, 5TH AUGUST, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
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

*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

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***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 (Absent – on leave)

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

*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)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

Mr. Lloyd J. Pereira, J.P., M.P.

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

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

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.

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 2.07 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Thanks to Ms Bibi Shadick

The Speaker thanked Ms Bibi Shadick for presiding for him at the last sitting.

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(ii) **Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.**

The Speaker informed Members of the Assembly that he was informed that the Rev. Kwame Gilbert graduated on Saturday, 21st July, 2010 at the La Guardia Sheraton with a Doctorate in Leadership and Organisation from the LOGOS University and Graduate Schools and that he was entitled to use the initials Dr. before his name.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated the Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert on his significant academic achievement.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications:

The Public Electricity Supply (Amendment) Regulations 2010 – No. 3 of 2010.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Audited Accounts of the Guyana Securities Council for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(ii) Audited Accounts of the Guyana Securities Council for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(iii) The Kwakwani Utilities Inc., Annual Report for the years ended 31st December, 2005 and 2006.

(Circulated)

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- (iv) The Kwakwani Utilities Inc., Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 2007.
(Circulated)
- (v) The Kwakwani Utilities Inc., Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 2008.
(Circulated)
- (vi) The Linmine Electricity Inc., Annual Report for the period 11th August – 31st December, 2003.
(Circulated)
- (vii) The Linmine Electricity Inc., Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 2004.
(Circulated)
- (viii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the years ended 31st December, 2002 – 2005.
(Circulated)
- (ix) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Electricity Corporation Inc., for the years ended 31st December, 2002 – 2007.
(Circulated)
- (x) The Audited Financial Statements of the Lethem Power Company Inc., for the period 22nd January, 2003 to 31st December, 2004.
(Circulated)
- (xi) The Audited Financial Statements of the Berbice Mining Enterprise Ltd., for the years ended 31st December, 2002 and 2003.
(Circulated)
- (xii) The Guyana National Printers Limited Annual Reports for the year ended 31st December, 2002 to 2008.
(Circulated)

8.

- (xiii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana National Shipping Corporation Ltd., for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2008.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Agriculture:

- (i) The National Mangrove Management Action Plan for 2010-2012.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Guyana Sugar Corporation Annual Report for the year 2009.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee Annual Reports for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. TRAINING SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 12/2010

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Training Schools Act.

(To be Circulated)

2. JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 13/2010

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Juvenile Offenders Act.

(To be Circulated)

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9.

3. CRIMINAL LAW (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 14/2010

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act.
(To be Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2010

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2010 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling one hundred and fifty five million, two hundred and seventy eight thousand, nine hundred and sixteen dollars ((\$155,278,916) – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 2010-06-01 to 2010-12-31.

**(Notice Paper No. 486 (M148 Govt 90) published on 2010-07-29)
(Paper presented on 2010-07-29)**

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 1/2010 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling one hundred and fifty five million, two hundred and seventy eight thousand, nine hundred and sixteen dollars ((\$155,278,916) – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 2010-06-01 to 2010-12-31.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2010

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2010 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling two billion, two hundred and seventy one million, one hundred and ninety one thousand, one hundred and sixty one dollars (\$2,271,191,161) for the period ending 31st December, 2010.

**(Notice Paper No. 487 (M149 Govt 91) published on 2010-07-29)
(Paper presented on 2010-07-29)**

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 2/2010 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling two billion, two hundred and seventy one million, one hundred and ninety one thousand, one hundred and sixty one dollars (\$2,271,191,161) for the period ending 31st December, 2010.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 1 FOR 2010) BILL 2010 –

Bill No. 9 of 2010 published on 2010-07-28

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2010) Bill No. 9 of 2010 to be introduced at that stage.

The Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2010) Bill No. 9 of 2010 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

12.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2010, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.53 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 4 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 10/2010 published on 2010-07-29

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

(Read a first time on 2010-07-29)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Labour

Mrs. Sheila Holder

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 4(b):

“In line 8, delete the word ‘less’ and insert the word ‘more’”

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 5 to 13 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.15p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 9th August, 2010.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

5th August, 2010.