

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 34TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2007
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

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

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (42)

1. People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)

2. 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. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (Absent – on leave)

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

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

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

*The Hon S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent-on leave)

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

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

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. Doodnauth Singh, 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. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., 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

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Absent)

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

***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) (Absent – on leave)

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. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

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

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

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

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

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.

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. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent)

***Non-elected Member
4.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

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

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P. (Absent)

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)

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)

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, M.P.

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

5.

3. 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. 01p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

1. **World Diabetes Day**

The Speaker announced that November, 14, 2007, was World Diabetes Day and that the Ministry of Health had requested his permission to pin the logo for World Diabetes Day (a blue sticker in the shape of a small Doughnut) on all Members of Parliament by the Ministry's staff.

He also stated that he had no objection to the request and sought the cooperation of Members for the pinning of the logo.

2. **Welcome back to Clerk of the National Assembly**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members and himself, welcomed back the Clerk of the National Assembly who was away from the Parliament Office for approximately three months due to illness.

6.

3. Handing Over of a Bus and ten Lap Top Computers

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the Chinese Ambassador was scheduled to hand over a Bus and ten Lap Top Computers to him that afternoon at 4.00 p.m. during the suspension of the sitting.

The Speaker invited Members in particular the following Members to witness the handing over ceremony:

- The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications
- The Minister of Finance
- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal
- Mr. Odinga Lumumba
- Mr. Winston Murray
- Mr. E. Lance Carberry
- Mr. Raphael Trotman

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTIONS****ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2007**

The Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

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:

7.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,668,232,435 for the period 2007-04-17 to 2007-11-07.

(Notice Paper No. 185 (M46 Govt 28) published on 2007-11-10)

(Paper presented on 2007-11-08)

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,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,668,232,435 for the period 2007-04-17 to 2007-11-07.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2007

The Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

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:

8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,011,179,821 for the period ended 2007-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 186 (M47 Govt 29) published on 2007-11-10)

(Paper presented on 2007-11-08)

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,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,011,179,821 for the period ended 2007-12-31.

BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS
ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 1 FOR 2007) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 24/2007 published on 2007-11-15

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 of 2007) Bill No. 24 of 2007 to be introduced at this stage.

9.

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 2007) Bill No. 24 of 2007 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:

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, 2007, 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.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 4 - DEEDS REGISTRY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 22/2007 published on 2007-10-24

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Authority Act.

(Read a first time on 2007-11-01)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

10.

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 and 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 3

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

- (a) Insert immediately after the word “amended” the words “-(a)”
- (b) in subsection (4) for the words “subsections (2) and” substitute the word “subsection” and immediately after the word “Registry” insert the words “other than the Registrar and Deputy Registrar”.

Clause 3 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Deeds Registry Authority (Amendment) Bill 2007 – Bill No. 22 of 2007 was read a third time and passed as amended.

11.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.19 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Assembly was 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.

15th November, 2007.