

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 39TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 3RD JANUARY, 2008
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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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 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

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

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 (Absent)

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. 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.

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

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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.

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

***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. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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 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

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

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.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

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 Kisson, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

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

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

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, M.P.

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**(i) Leave for Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly**

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly informed the National Assembly that His Honour the Speaker of the National Assembly was out of the jurisdiction attending a Conference of Speakers and Clerks in London. The Deputy Speaker also informed Members that she would have been presiding at that day's sitting and asked Members for their usual co-operation.

(ii) New Year's Greetings

The Deputy Speaker wished Members of the National Assembly and their families, the Clerk and staff of the Parliament Office, the Press and the Hansard staff a prosperous and a most productive 2008.

6.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**For Oral Replies****1. NEW DIAMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL****Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P.**

Could the Honourable Minister of Education please inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *What is the catchment area of students eligible to attend the New Diamond Secondary School?
- (ii) *Could the Honourable Minister state why students were taken from the Covent Garden Secondary School, which is an 'A' grade school, to be sent to the New Diamond Secondary?
- (iii) *Could the Minister state if he recognizes that this act of removing students will result in the disruption of classes at Covent Garden Secondary School?

(Notice Paper No. 199 (Q145 Opp 142) published on 2007-12-07)

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Winston Murray asked the Minister a Supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister replied.

2. NEW OPPORTUNITY CORP**Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.**

Could the Hon. Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *Whether persons who have served time at the New Opportunity Corp are monitored after they are released from that institution?

7.

- (ii) *The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp, repeatedly return to the custody of the New Opportunity Corp for the last three (3) years?
- (iii) *The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp, continue to commit offences against the law for the last three (3) years?
- (iv) *The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp, go on to lead criminal life styles for the last three (3) years?
- (v) *Whether there are any programs in place to assist those persons who have served time at the New Opportunity Corp to, on their release, find meaningful employment and/or enroll in a suitable educational institution?

(Notice Paper No. 200 (Q146 Opp 143) published on 2007-12-07)

Thereafter the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport replied.

Mr. Winston Murray asked the Minister a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister replied.

3. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER AT THE RUIMVELDT POLICE STATION

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *What plans are there for the rehabilitation of the Juvenile Detention Center housed at the Ruimveldt Police Station?
- (ii) *When would the rehabilitation works begin?
- (iii) *What is the amount allocated in the National Budget for this line item?

(Notice Paper No. 201 (Q147 Opp 144) published on 2007-12-07)

8.

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

4. SEPARATION OF JUVENILES AND ADULT PRISONERS

Member Asking: **Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.**

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *Whether suitable arrangements have been made for the separation of Juveniles and adult prisoners at the Georgetown Magistrates Court?

- (ii) *Whether Juveniles prisoners are usually transported with adult prisoners to the Juvenile Detention Centers?

- (iii) *What arrangements are in place for the separation and transporting of Juveniles at Magistrate Courts outside of Georgetown?

(Notice Paper No. 202 (Q148 Opp 145) published on 2007-12-07)

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2007**

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:

9.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,459,063,444 for the period 2007-11-21 to 2007-12-21

(Notice Paper No. 208 (M56 Govt 35) published on 2007-12-28)

(Paper presented on 2007-12-27)

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.32 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

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. 3/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,459,063,444 for the period 2007-11-21 to 2007-12-21.

10.

ITEM 2 **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2007**

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:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,939,310,524 for the period ending 2007-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 209 (M57 Govt 36) published on 2007-12-28)

(Paper presented on 2007-12-27)

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. 4/2007 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,939,310,524 for the period ending 2007-12-31.

BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 FOR 2007) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 31 of 2007

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2007) Bill No. 31 of 2007 to be introduced at this 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. 2 for 2007) Bill No. 31 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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.14 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

3rd January, 2008.