

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 163RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2011) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2011
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

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

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (40)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (39)

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 (Absent – on leave)

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

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

*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

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

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

The Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini), Minister of Local
Government and Regional Development

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

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)

/...3

***Non-Elected Minister**
****Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/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) (Absent – on leave)

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

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/Supenaam)

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.

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

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

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

4.

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

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

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

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

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

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

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Absent)

5.

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

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

Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

OFFICERS (2)

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

Ms Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Thank you to Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

The Speaker thanked Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly for acting as Speaker in his absence.

The Prime Minister welcomed the Speaker back to the Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

First Annual Report of the Women and Gender Equality Commission for the period May, 2010 – May, 2011.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Treasury Memorandum pursuant to Resolution No. 158/2011 dated 17th June, 2011 of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2007 and 2008.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 3/2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,104,478,083 for the period 2nd June, 2011 to 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(iii) Financial Paper No. 4/2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$542,948,950 for the period ending 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance named the 8th September, 2011 for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

(iv) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Securities Council for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(v) Guyana National Printers Limited Annual Report for the year 2009.

(Circulated)

7.

- (vi) Guyana Oil Company Annual Report for the year 2010.
(Circulated)
- (vii) The Dependants' Pension Fund Annual Report for the year 2009.
(Circulated)
- (viii) Dollar Credit Line Agreement dated July 26, 2010 between the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Export-Import Bank of India for US\$4,000,000 for acquiring, installing and commissioning of fixed and mobile irrigation pumps.
(Circulated)
- (ix) Sales Contract No. SA 140992 (PETROCARIBE) dated January 1, 2011 between PDVSA Petroleo, S.A., and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) to supply the Government of Guyana with crude oil, refined oil products and LPG of up to 5,200 barrels per day on an annual basis.
(Circulated)
- (x) Financing Agreement No. 4803-GY dated January 19, 2011 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the International Development Association for SDR 2,800,000 for the Improving Teacher Education Project.
(Circulated)
- (xi) Loan Agreement No. 6/SFG-OR-GUY dated February 3, 2011 between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for US\$16,292,000 for the Community Roads Improvement Programme.
(Circulated)

/...8

8.

- (xii) Loan Contract No. 2535/BL-GY dated July 13, 2011 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$12,000,000 for the Linden Water Supply Rehabilitation Programme.

(Circulated)

- (xiii) The Mid-Year Report 2011.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

- (2) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the 25th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Friday, 12th August, 2011.

(Circulated)

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

- (i) Report of the Special Select Committee on Access to Information Bill 2011 – Bill No. 10/2011.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2011 – Bill No. 17 of 2011.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Telecommunications Bill 2011 – Bill No. 18 of 2011.

(Circulated)

9.

(4) By the Minister of Health (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Criminal Responsibility of HIV Infected Individuals):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Criminal Responsibility of HIV Infected Individuals, (Resolution No. 129 of 2010).

(Circulated)

(5) By Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P. (Chairman of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources):

Third Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources.

(Circulated)

(6) Due to the absence of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) the following report was not presented:

Report of the Public Accounts Committee of Guyana on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2009.

(Circulated)

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

Minister of Home Affairs (Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Oversight of the Security Sector) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly adopts the Interim Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Oversight of the Security Sector.

(Notice Paper No. 537 (M181 Govt 113) published on 2011-08-05)

10.

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.52 p.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 Thursday, 8th September, 2011.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

1st September, 2011.