

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 84TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2018,
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

*Hon Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (36)

(i) **A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (36)**

First Vice-President and Prime Minister (1)

+ Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., First Vice-President and Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (3)

+ Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs

+Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

+*Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+ Hon. Basil Williams, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (15)

+ Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

+ Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Minister of State

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- + Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities
- + Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport
- + Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
- + Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Health
- + Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., Minister of Public Infrastructure
- + Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Telecommunications
- +*Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship (Absent – on leave)
- + Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P., Minister of Business
- +Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- +Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Public Affairs
- +Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (7)

*Hon. Keith Scott, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Finance

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

3.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Public Health

Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Valarie Patterson-Yearwood, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Minister within the Ministry of Communities

Other Members (9)

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

Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P.

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) People’s Progressive Party (32)

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

4.

Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P.

Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Ms. Gillian R. Burton-Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P.

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

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

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Absent)

5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P. (Absent)

Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.16 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcement:

(1) **LEAVE:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted for today's Sitting to:

Honourable Mr. Winston Felix and Dr. Bheri Ramsaran

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 1/2018 – Supplementary Estimate (Current) totalling \$1,750,000,000 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31.

(Circulated)

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance named the 19th January, 2018 for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

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- (ii) Amendatory Agreement No. 1 for **Loan Contract No. 2741/BL-GY** dated December 11, 2017 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$63,500,000.00 for the purpose of financing the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility Programme.

(Circulated)

(ii) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILL – Second Reading

ITEM 1 - PROTECTED DISCLOSURES BILL 2017 – Bill No. 12/2017 published on 2017-10-12

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to combat corruption and other wrongdoings by encouraging and facilitating disclosures of improper conduct in the public and private sectors, to protect persons making those disclosures from detrimental action, to establish the Protected Disclosures Commission to receive, investigate or otherwise deal with disclosures of improper conduct and to provide for other related matters.

(Bill was read a first time on 2017-11-17)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Adrian Anamayah

Ms. Gillian Burton- Persaud

Mr. Charrandas Persaud

Mr. Harry Gill

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.18 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Bill.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

Ms. Gail Teixeira, Opposition Chief Whip

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 to 33 were passed as printed

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Protected Disclosures Bill 2017 – Bill No. 12 of 2017 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.56 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.35 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS-

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO GUYSUCO BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES

Bishop Juan Edghill, M.P., J.P., on behalf of Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services), moved the following motion:

WHEREAS a Parliamentary Committee cannot consider a report which is not adopted by the National Assembly or referred to the Committee in accordance with the Standing Orders;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order 86(6): “*The National Assembly may request a Sectoral Committee to enquire into and report on any aspect of the policy or administration of the Government within its terms of reference*”;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services, in order to effectively conclude its examination of the sugar industry finds it pertinent to consider the Report by the Commission of Inquiry into GUYSUCO;

AND WHEREAS this report was laid in the National Assembly on 30th December, 2015 on a motion moved by Hon. Noel Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That given the prevailing circumstances in the Sugar Industry, the Report: *Commission of Inquiry, Guysuco*, be referred to the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services for its consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 75 (M 60 Committees 9) published on 2016-11-21)

9.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Komal Chand

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister

Thereafter, Bishop Juan Edghill replied.

The motion was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Gill

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Damon

Mr. Chand

Mr. Neendkumar

Ms. Pearson-Fredericks

Mr. Mustapha

Ms. Selman

Dr. Westford

Mr. Hamilton

Bishop Edghill

Mr. Lumumba

Ms. Campbell- Sukhai

Ms. Teixeira

AGAINST

Mr. Rutherford

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. C. Persaud

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Carrington

Mr. Allen

Mr. Adams

Ms. Bancroft

Ms. Wade

Ms. Patterson

Ms. Henry

Ms. Broomes

Dr. Cummings

Mr. Sharma

Ms. Garrido- Lowe

Ms. Ferguson

Ms. Hastings- Williams

Mr. Holder

Mr. Gaskins

Ms. Hughes

Mr. Patterson

Ms. Lawrence

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10.

Mr. Trotman
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Norton
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Roopnaraine
Lt. Col. (Ret') Harmon
Ms. Ally
Mr. Williams
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Greenidge
Mr. Nagamootoo

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ADJOURNMENT

At 9.56 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 19th January, 2018.

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HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

18th January, 2018.