

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 87TH 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, 26TH APRIL, 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 (Absent)

+ 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
- + 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.

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

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

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

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

4.

Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.

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.

Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

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

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

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

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

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.

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)

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.

5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P.

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 2.15 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. MEDIA TRAINING

“Honourable Members, the Parliament Office in an effort to enhance its relationship with the Media, had entered a partnership with the High Commissioner of Canada and the Guyana Press Association to conduct a training session for the Media, particularly those who cover Parliamentary Sittings and Meetings of Parliamentary Committees. The training was conducted over a two-day period which was held on the 7th and 8th April, 2018, in the Parliament Chamber. It was certificate training”.

2. CHEDDI JAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT

“An invitation is hereby extended to you the Members of Parliament to tour the project site on Friday, April 27, 2018. The main purpose of this tour is to provide Members with all relevant information, so that a more informed discourse may occur in the future. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure will provide return transportation

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to the site, departure time will be 9.30 a.m. from the Parliament Office”.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Annual Reports of the Guyana Revenue Authority for the years 2012 and 2013.

(Circulated)

(ii) End Of Year Outcome 2017.

(Circulated)

(iii) Financial Paper No. 2/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,526,563,240 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31.

(Circulated)

(iv) Public-Private Partnership Policy Framework.

(Circulated)

(v) Treasury Memorandum Pursuant to Resolution No. 68/2018 dated January 19, 2018 of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2010 and 2011.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President and Minister of Public Security:

Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES –

(1) By the Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibilities of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments):

(i) Ninth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members

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of the Rights of the Child Commission.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Eleventh Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Police Service Commission.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Cybercrime Bill 2016 – No. 17/2016):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Cybercrime Bill 2016 – Bill No. 17/2016.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

1. Mitigation Support for Fishermen at Hope, East Coast Demerara

Mr. Nigel Dharamlall, M.P., asked the Minister of Agriculture the following questions:

“Over the years, more than forty (40) boat-owners have been mooring their fishing vessels in the vicinity of Hope Relief Canal, on the Atlantic Coast.

As a result of recent action taken to stop the boat-owners from using that area, could the Honourable Minister of Agriculture now inform this National Assembly as to what measures he intends to take to remedy the situation:

- (1) How will the Minister facilitate the fish trade in this area and ensure that the livelihood of fisher-folks and the overall viability of the fisheries sector are not harmed?

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- (2) Will the Minister facilitate the boat-owners, who employ more than one hundred and twenty (120) persons, to continue mooring their boats in the vicinity of the Hope Relief Canal without undue harassment from the authorities?
- (3) Will the Minister allow the security fence to be opened in a supervised manner to allow ingress and egress of wholesalers/ fish traders' vehicles thereby facilitating fish trade?"

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Mr. Nigel Dharamlall, M.P., asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

Thank-You Statement

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister made a statement expressing thanks to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Members of Parliament, Staff of the Parliament Office and Media for all the prayers and good wishes for the surgery which he had undertaken successfully and for his speedy recovery.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 3/2018

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Insurance Act 2016.

(Circulated)

9.

2. **NATIONAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM BILL 2018 – Bill No. 4/2018**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment, regulation and oversight of a National Payments System and for matters connected therewith.

(Circulated)

3. **FINANICAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 5/2018**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Financial Institutions Act.

(To be Circulated)

4. **BANK OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 6/2018**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Bank of Guyana Act.

(To be Circulated)

5. **DEPOSIT INSURANCE BILL 2018 – Bill No. 7/2018**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish a Deposit Insurance Scheme for the protection of insured depositors comprising a Deposit Insurance Fund and a Deposit Insurance Corporation responsible for managing

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the Fund and for connected purposes.

(To be Circulated)

6. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 9/2018**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act, Local Government Act, Local Authorities (Elections) Act, Local Democratic Organs Act, Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Act 1990 and Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000 in relation to local authorities' elections.

(To be Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILL-Second Reading

ITEM 1 - JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL 2018 – Bill No. 2 of 2018 published on 2018-03-13

The Vice-President and Minister of Public Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend and consolidate the law in relation to criminal justice for juveniles; to make provision for proceedings with respect to juvenile offenders; to provide for the establishment of facilities for the custody, education and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, and to repeal the Juvenile Offenders Act and the Training Schools Act.

(Read a first time on 2018-03-15)

11.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Frank Anthony

Dr. Vindhya Persaud

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.02 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.25 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

Ms. Priya Manickchand

Ms. Gillian Burton-Persaud

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Clement Rohee

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.13 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Ms. Gail Teixeira also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice- President Minister of Public Security 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 133 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Vice-President and Minister of Public Security, the Juvenile Justice Bill 2018 – Bill No. 2 of 2018 was read a third time and passed as printed

ITEM 2 - CYBERCRIME BILL 2016 – Bill No. 17/2016 published on 2016-08-04

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to combat cybercrime by creating offences of cybercrime; to provide for penalties, investigation and prosecution of the offences and related matters.

(Read a first time and committed to a Special Select Committee on 2016-08-04)

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS-

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE SIXTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM AUTHORITY

The Minister of Social Cohesion (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved that the following motion be deferred:

13.

WHEREAS in keeping with the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Act No.1 of 2015, Section 7A (1); “the National Assembly shall”;

by a simple majority; and

a) on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Appointments, after the Committee has consulted such bodies as the Committee may deem necessary to consult, appoint a body comprising ten members to be known as the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Authority”.

AND WHEREAS the Committee agreed and consulted with the following list of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to submit nominees for appointment to the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism Authority (AML&CFT):

Guyana Private Sector Commission
Guyana Association of Bankers
Institute of Chartered Accountants Guyana
Transparency Institute of Guyana Inc.
Bar Association of Guyana
Insurance Institute of Guyana
Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, and
Guyana Securities Council

AND WHEREAS the Committee conducted due diligence and sought declaration from the nominees on being a “Politically Exposed Person”;

AND WHEREAS the Committee on Appointments recommends the following persons to be appointed Members to the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) Authority in accordance with the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism Authority (Amendment) Act 2015:

14.

Guyana Private Sector Commission	-	Mr. Nicholas Deygoo
	-	Captain Gerald Gouveia
Guyana Association of Bankers	-	Mr. Wayne Eucaulton Fordyce
Institute of Chartered Accountants Guyana	-	Mr. Hance Manohar
Transparency Institute of Guyana Incorporated	-	Mr. Thomas Bissessar Singh
	-	Mr. Frederick Collins
Bar Association of Guyana	-	Mr. Mohamed Alli
	-	Mr. Christopher Ram
Insurance Institute of Guyana	-	Ms. Melissa Jessica DeSantos
Guyana Association of Women Lawyers	-	Ms. Sadie Amin

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to address matters relating to the appointment of Members to the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly signifies to the Clerk of the National Assembly that Mr. Nicholas Deygoo, Captain Gerald R. Gouveia, Mr. Wayne Eucaulton Fordyce, Mr. Hance Manohar, Mr. Frederick Collins, Mr. Thomas Bissessar Singh, Mr. Mohamed Alli, Mr. Christopher Ram, Ms. Melissa Jessica DeSantos; and

15.

Ms. Sadie Amin be appointed in accordance with the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act No. 1 of 2015, Section 7A (6).

(Notice Paper No. 105 (M 81 Committees No.18) published on 2017-07-10)

ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS AND THE HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) moved to following motion:

WHEREAS Article 212Z (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana states:

“The Commission shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer, who shall serve as Secretary, and such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. The terms and conditions of the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and the two most senior officers shall be subject to the approval of the National Assembly.”

AND WHEREAS the Public Procurement Commission after consultation with the Public Accounts Committee with respect to the benefits packages for the Chief Executive Officer and the two most senior officers, accepted the following proposal:

1. The Chief Executive Officer:

Salary: G\$950,000 per month

Gratuity of 22 ½ percent of gross salary paid semi-annually

Entertainment allowance: G\$10,000 per month

Telephone allowance: G\$15,000 per month

Thirty-five (35) days annual leave and vacation allowance equivalent to one month's salary

24-hour security at place of residence

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2. Head, Operations:

Salary: G\$600,000 per month

Gratuity of 22 ½ percent of gross salary paid semi-annually

Entertainment allowance: G\$10,000 per month

Telephone allowance: G\$15,000 per month

Twenty-eight (28) days annual leave and vacation allowance equivalent to one month's salary

3. Head, Corporate Services:

Salary: G\$600,000 per month

Gratuity of 22 ½ percent of gross salary paid semi-annually

Entertainment allowance: G\$10,000 per month

Telephone allowance: G\$15,000 per month

Twenty-eight (28) days annual leave and vacation allowance equivalent to one month's salary

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee, at its 35th Meeting held on Monday, February 5, 2018, agreed that the proposal should be forwarded to the National Assembly.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts this motion which relates to the terms and conditions of the Chief Executive Officer and the two most Senior Officers to the Public Procurement Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 121 (M 92 Committees 23) published on 2018-02-14)

The Minister of Health spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali replied.

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17.

The motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.18 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 11th May, 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.**

11th May, 2018.