

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 90TH 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, 12TH JULY, 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
- + 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. (Absent – on leave)

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 2.20 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) **Leave:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, for today's Sitting.

(2) **Death of Mr. Abdul Kadir**

“Honourable Members, you are all aware of the death of Mr. Abdul Kadir, a former Member of Parliament, who died on the 28th June, 2018, in Prison in the United States of America. He was 66 years old having born on the 8th December, 1951. Mr. Kadir came from the People's National Congress/Reform.

Following the General and Regional Elections which were held on Monday, 19th March, 2001, the Eighth Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National

6.

Assembly first met on Friday, 4th May, 2001. Mr. Kadir was appointed an ordinary Member of Parliament on the 17th April, 2001 and serve in the Eighth Parliament. Mr. Kadir was also Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources. Mr. Kadir ceased to be a Member of Parliament on the 2nd May, 2006, when the Eighth Parliament was dissolved on that date.

Honourable Members, please let us stand and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Abdul Kadir.”

Minute of Silence

A minute of silence was observed as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Abdul Kadir.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Annual Reports of the Rights of the Child Commission for the years 2015 and 2016.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) The State Pensions (Mary Noel Menezes) Order 2018 – No. 22 of 2018.

(Circulated)

(ii) The State Pensions (Maximum Annual Rate) Order 2018 – No. 23 of 2018.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of State:

Audited Financial Statements of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology for the years ended 31st December, 2012 and 2013.

(Circulated)

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REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

By the Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Animal Welfare Bill 2016):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Animal Welfare Bill 2016 – Bill No. 21 of 2016.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

(1) **Causes of the High Mortality Rates at the Neo- Natal Intensive Care Unit Of The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation**

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

In accordance with Guyana's commitment to the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals.

(a) Could the Minister of Public Health inform this National Assembly as to what measures are being taken to reduce the increase in neo-natal deaths at the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NNICU) of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation?

(b) Could the Minister provide the National Assembly with the number of neonates admitted to the NNICU and the number of deaths for the period June 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018?

(c) Has the Ministry and the Georgetown Public Hospital investigated the causes of the increased number of neo-natal deaths?

(i) When was this investigation done and who comprised the investigation team?

(ii) What corrective measures were recommended and have been put in place?

(iii) Was poor sterility and infrequent testing of the Unit responsible for any of the deaths in this period? And if so how many?

8.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

(2) **Teachers' Salaries and Conditions of Service**

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

Taking into consideration that the Special High Level Task Force established in November 2017 between the Guyana Teacher's Union and the Government of Guyana to examine and make recommendations for salaries and conditions of service of the teachers in a multi-year agreement completed its report over three months ago, could the Honorable Minister of Education, inform this National Assembly as to the following:

- (i) What are the reasons for the delay since the Special High level Taskforce was composed of specially selected representatives of the government and the report resulted with joint agreement on both sides?
- (ii) Will government address the outstanding issues of de-bunching and the housing projects?
- (iii) What is the status of the monies that were allocated for the housing project?
- (iv) Will the government include those teacher who would have retired during the period 2015-2016 and those who are entitled to their benefits and will be retiring prior to government's decision.

9.

(v) When will the teachers of this country be informed of the commencement and implementation of the Report's recommendations?

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P., asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT (SLED) INITIATIVE

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P asked the Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip the following questions:

- * (1) Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly whether any proposals for the Sustainable Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development (SLED) Initiative programmes are under consideration for the communities impacted by the termination of the jobs of sugar workers?
- * (2) What portion of the SLED Initiative's 2018-2019 financial outlay the Ministry plans to spend on projects in the aforementioned communities?
- * (3) What timeline exists for the implementation of SLED Initiative projects for those afflicted communities?

(Notice Paper No. 149 (Q34 Opp. 33) published on 2018-06-14)

Thereafter, the Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip replied.

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip replied.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 – DEATH OF MR. JULES RICHARD KRANENBURG, FORMER SENIOR MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Minister of Public Infrastructure moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly place on record our profound grief at the great loss suffered by the people of Guyana on the death of Mr. Jules Richard Kranenburg, on 29th May, 2016, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana where he served as Member of Parliament in the Fifth Parliament from 3rd February, 1986 to 19th October, 1986. Mr. Jules Kranenburg was appointed Minister of Transport from 20th October, 1986 to 31st December, 1986,

Minister of Communications and Works from 8th January, 1987 to 7th July, 1991 and Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development from 8th July, 1991 to 28th August, 1992;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of our heartfelt condolences and sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 146 (M 112 Govt 61) published on 2018-05-25)

11.

Mr. Neendkumar spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Infrastructure replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - DEATH OF MR. HUKUMCHAND a/k PARAG, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Hukumchand a/k Parag, on 24th January, 2016, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of Parliament from 24th October, 1992 to 29th October, 1997, and to the people of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 147 (M 113 Private Member 3) published on 2018-05-25)

Mr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 5/2018 published on 2018-04-25

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 2018-04-26)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.58 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.09 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Nigel Dharamlall

The Minister of Business

Bishop Juan Edghill

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.55 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill.

13.

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall also spoke to the motion

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance 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 6 were passed as printed.

Clause 7

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“In Clause 7 in the substituted PART VIII in section 38(5), for the words ‘without delay so that’ substitute the words ‘as soon as practicable provided’.”

Clause 7 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2018 – Bill No. 5/2018 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2 - INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 3/2018 published on 2018-04-11

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 2018-04-26)

13.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“In Clause 2 (4) delete the words ‘including a child, born out of wedlock’.”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2018 – Bill No. 3/2018 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.59 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 13th July, 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.**

12th July, 2018