

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 91ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 13TH 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

/...2

+ 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)

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) (Absent)

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) Death Of Ms. Debra Hermina Cadogan

“Honourable Members, I wish to inform you that Ms. Debra Hermina Cadogan, Head of the Committees Division of the Parliament Office, died on Tuesday, 9th July, 2018, at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation after a very brief illness. At the time of her death Ms. Cadogan was living at Section ‘C’ Lot 1 Dr. Miller Street, Triumph, East Coast Demerara. She was fifty-five years old having been born on the 21st November, 1962. She has served in the Parliament Office from 6th October, 1999, to the time of her death a total of 19 years.

The Parliament Office has determined that a suitable Memorial for her passing will be a wake which will be held in the Parliament Compound, on Tuesday, 17th July, 2018 from 7.00 p.m. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, 18th July, 2018, at the Christian Tabernacle Church, 301 Church Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown.

6.

There will be viewing of the body at Merriman's Funeral Home from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. followed by the Church Service from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and a further viewing from 4.00 p.m., to 5.00 p.m. She will be interred in her home Village of Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara."

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

Clarity on the facts presented by the Media regarding the "seemingly high number of neo-natal deaths at the Georgetown Public Hospital"

The Minister of Public Health made a statement re: Clarity on the facts presented by the Media regarding the "seemingly high number of neo-natal deaths at the Georgetown Public Hospital".

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - NATIONAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM BILL 2018 – Bill No. 4/2018
published on 2018-04-24

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

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Nigel Dharamlall

The Minister within the Ministry of Finance

Bishop Juan Edghill

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

7.

The Bill was then read a second time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.39 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.00 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the National Payments System Bill.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 56 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the National Payments System Bill 2018 – Bill No. 4/2018 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - BANK OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 6/2018 **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 Bank of Guyana Act.

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

8.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali
Bishop Juan Edghill
Vice- President and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Gail Teixeira
Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

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 5 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Bank of Guyana (Amendment) Bill 2018 – Bill No. 6/2018 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - DEPOSIT INSURANCE BILL 2018 – Bill No. 7/2018 published on 2018-04-25

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

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 the Fund and for connected purposes.

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

9.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Nigel Dharamlall

The Minister of Business

Mr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 10.00 p.m., the First Vice-President and Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude consideration on the Bill.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Bishop Juan Edghill

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Presiding by Mr. John Adams, M.P.

At 10:35 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. John Adams, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 10:37 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The Minister of Finance continued and concluded his speech.

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 54 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Deposit Insurance Bill 2018 – Bill No. 7/2018 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.50 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 19th 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.**

13th July, 2018.