

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 92<sup>nd</sup> 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, 19<sup>TH</sup> 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) (Absent)

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 2.19 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

The Speaker extended birthday greetings to Ms. Gail Teixeira, Opposition Chief Whip.

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**ADDRESSING GROWING FEARS WITH THE CRIME SITUATION**

Mr. Clement Rohee, M.P. asked the Vice-President and the Minister of Public Security the following questions:

“The latest figures released by the Guyana Police Force for the first half of the year, show an increase of reported crimes: 9% increase in robberies, 2% increase in robberies with firearms, and a 9% increase in the number of rape, could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly as to the following:

6.

- i) What precise plans and interventions he intends to implement to reduce the increase, in particular, of the number of robberies, robberies with firearms and rape?
- ii) What precise plans he intends to implement to address the growing drug trade which the 2018 International Narcotics and Control Strategy published by the US State Department recognized as a major threat?
- iii) How does the Minister intend to address money laundering which the same report referred to in (ii) cited “government corruption” as a major source of money laundering?
- iv) Is there a lack of confidence in the Government’s ability to address crime?
- v) What measures had or will the Minister put in place to build greater trust and confidence in the capacity of his Ministry to address the crime situation?”

Thereafter, Vice-President and the Minister of Public Security replied.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P., asked Vice-President and the Minister of Public Security a supplementary question.

Thereafter, Vice-President and the Minister of Public Security replied.

Mr. Clement Rohee, M.P., asked Vice-President and the Minister of Public Security supplementary questions.

Thereafter, Vice President and the Minister of Public Security replied.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-****For Oral Reply****\*RECRUITMENT OF PERSONS INTO THE GUYANA PEOPLE'S MILITIA**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked the Minister of State the following questions:

\*On January 3, 2016, the Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force, Brigadier Mark Phillips announced that the Guyana People's Militia has been re-activated with effect from December 1, 2015 and that it had hoped to recruit an additional 1500 persons as reserves. "These are not full-time, these are part-time soldiers. The whole concept to have a small regular army and a larger reserve that could augment the regular army," he said. Phillips explained the advantage of having the GPM as a separate entity rather than being part of the GDP as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion since August, 1997. "They will have a separate budget and a separate organizational structure, greater involvement at the regional and community levels in defence and security activities, not to mention training and employment activities," he is reported to have remarked. The Commander-in-Chief stated at the 2016 Annual Officers' Conference that, "The 'reserve force' – the Guyana People's Militia – is being re-built in every administrative region. The Militia is an essential arm of the Regional system. Each regional capital town will have its own unit, eventually, to enable to respond more promptly to render assistance to residents in the event of emergencies."

During the annual budget on the 2016 Budget Estimates, February 15, 2016, the Honourable Minister Harmon informed the House in response to questions that the Guyana People's Militia was as in the past situated within the Guyana Defence Force as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion Reserve and its budget was included within the GDF budget and administration.

Could the Minister provide this National Assembly with the following information:-

- \*(i) The criteria and methodology of recruitment of persons into the People's Militia?
- \*(ii) The number of persons who have been recruited into the People's Militia in the last two (2) years?

8.

- \* (iii) By what means have these persons been recruited; via public advertisement in the media, in the social media, or any other means?
- \* (iv) The number of persons by regions who have been recruited?
- \* (v) The type of training that the recruits are being given and for how long?
- \* (vi) Are recruits receiving stipends, salaries or other benefits?

**(Notice Paper No. 150 (Q35 Opp. 34) published on 2018-06-26)**

Thereafter, the Minister of State replied.

Mr. Clement Rohee, M.P., asked the Minister of State a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of State replied.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., asked the Minister of State supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of State replied.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**Clarity on the issue regarding the 366.9M Contract awarded to New York-based HDM Labs Inc.**

The Minister of Public Health made a statement re: Clarity on the issue regarding the 366.9M Contract awarded to New York-based HDM Labs Inc.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**State of Interior Roads**

A request by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the State of the Interior Roads, was allowed by the Speaker.

9.

The motion accordingly stood over until the resumption of the Sitting following the suspension thereof.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 10/2018**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR TO ITS PRE-2015 STATUS**

Mrs. Gillian Burton-Persaud, M.P. moved the following motion:

WHEREAS there existed a Ministry of Labour before the General Elections of May, 2015;

AND WHEREAS after General Elections of May, 2015, the Government of Guyana established a Ministry of Social Protection, headed by a Senior Minister;

AND WHEREAS on the establishment of the Ministry of Social Protection, the Ministry was reduced to that of a Department within the Ministry of Social Protection and headed by a Junior Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection;

AND WHEREAS on May 1, 2018, at the joint rally of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (GTUC) and the Federation of Independent Trades Union of Guyana (FITUG) the call was made for a Motion to be laid in this National Assembly in relation to the re-establishment of the Ministry of Labour,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to support the call of the joint trade union movement and restore the Ministry of Labour to its pre-2015 status, as soon as possible.

**(Notice Paper No. 138 (M 109 Opp 20) published on 2018-05-07)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms. Africo Selman

Mr. Komal Chand

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.15 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.35 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**State of Interior Roads**

In accordance with permission granted earlier by the Speaker, Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the matter to wit the state of the Interior Roads.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Mr. Alister Charlie

The Minister of Public Infrastructure

Thereafter, Ms. Gail Teixeira replied.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.27 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.09 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Re-establishment of the Ministry of Labour to its Pre-2015 Status motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Adrian Anamayah

The Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

Thereafter, Ms. Gillian Burton-Persaud replied.

The motion was then put and negatived on the following division:

**FOR**

Mr. Bharrat

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Gill

Mr. Anamayah

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Damon

Dr. Mahadeo

**AGAINST**

Mr. Rutherford

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. C. Persaud

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Carrington

Mr. Allen

Mr. Adams

Mr. Chand  
Mr. Neendkumar  
Ms. Pearson- Fredericks  
Mr. G. Persaud  
Mr. Mustapha  
Dr. Ramsaran  
Ms. G. Persaud  
Mr. Hamilton  
Dr. V. Persaud  
Mr. Seeraj  
Bishop Edghill  
Mr. Lumumba  
Ms. Campbell- Sukhai  
Dr. Anthony  
Ms. Manickchand  
Mr. Nandlall  
Ms. Teixeira  
Mr. Rohee

Ms. Bancroft  
Ms. Wade  
Ms. Patterson  
Ms. Henry  
Ms. Broomes  
Dr. Cummings  
Mr. Sharma  
Ms. Garrido-Lowe  
Mr. Holder  
Mr. Gaskin  
Ms. Hughes  
Mr. Patterson  
Ms. Lawrence  
Mr. Trotman  
Mr. Jordan  
Dr. Norton  
Mr. Bulkan  
Dr. Roopnarine  
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon  
Ms. Ally  
Mr. Williams  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Mr. Greenidge  
Mr. Nagamootoo

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister extended birthday greetings to Ms. Gail Teixeira, Opposition Chief Whip. The Speaker joined the First Vice-President and Prime Minister in extending birthday greetings to Ms. Gail Teixeira.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.08 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**19<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.**