

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**  
**(2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2008**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (42)**

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)**

(ii) **The United Force (1)**

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P., (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo), Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

\*The Hon S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

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\*Non-elected Minister

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional  
Development

\*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of  
Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. B. H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

\*\*The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)  
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Mr. Albert A. Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

**\*\*Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

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

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

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

\*\*\*Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

\*\*\*Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

**Members of the Opposition (28)**

**(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

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\*\*\*Non-elected Member

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

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

Ms. Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P.

(ii) **Alliance for Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

**(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

**OFFICERS (2)**

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The sitting commenced at 2.08 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Visit of Mr. Juan Carlos Garcia of the Organization of the American States**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Juan Carlos Garcia, Senior Assistant Analysis, Department of Information and Technology Services of Organization of American States, was at that day's sitting and that he was visiting Guyana to do an Information Technology Assessment of the National Assembly.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker welcomed Mr. Juan Carlos Garcia to the National Assembly and wished him an enjoyable stay in Guyana.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

1. **By the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications:**  
The Restriction of Rights (Mining Lands) Order 2007 – Order No. 31 of 2007.

(Circulated)

2. By the Minister of Finance:

The Guyana Revenue Authority Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

1. **FIRST LADIES AND FORMER FIRST LADIES**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Could the Hon. Prime Minister state:

What rights, privileges, and entitlements do first ladies and former first ladies enjoy by practice or convention?

(Notice Paper No. 214 (Q153 Opp150) published on 2008-02-01)

**Answer**

There are no statutes pronouncing on rights, privileges and entitlements of First Ladies save and except those protected by law as a wife.

A Former First Lady whose spouse serves as the Executive President is not entitled to any rights, privileges and entitlements save and except those provided by a competent Court of Law secondary to claims arising from the implied separation and/or divorce.

A Former First Lady of a Former President who is alive is a private citizen. A Former First Lady of a deceased Former President is entitled to survivor's benefits that are based on her spouse's pension.

2. **CLEARING OF EAST COAST DEMERARA BACK LANDS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) When will the Antilope grass field aback of Lusignan Pasture be mowed down as requested by the residents and survivors of January 26 slaughter of innocent men, women and children?
- (ii) Given that the East Coast Demerara back lands up to the Mahaica river is on average seven (7) miles deep, how many miles is proposed to be cleared in the current land clearing exercise and over what period?
- (iii) Through what process were persons and enterprises contracted to clear/bulldoze the East Coast Demerara back lands?  
(Notice Paper No. 229 (Q161 Opp 158) published on 2008-02-29)

**Answers**

- (i) Discussions have started with the Cattle farmers' group, which manages the pasture, on the residents' observations. Already, a decision has been taken to establish a Policing Group outpost on a section of the Lusignan pasture.
- (ii) The backlands clearing activity may only span from Enmore to Beterverwagting. The Joint Services require a clear line of sight of about 1000 metres from the residential area going South. The duration of this aspect of Operation Restore Order depends on a number of factors including weather condition and the availability of more land-clearing equipment.
- (iii) Members of the Joint Services are executing the clearing of the backland activities.

### **3. REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT – AMELIA’S WARD**

**Member Asking:** Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly whether he is prepared to amend the necessary regulations to reduce the speed limit from 60 mph. to 30 mph., for Amelia’s Ward, between Millie’s Hideout and the Kara Kara Bridge, in Region # 10, given that this area is now well populated?

(Notice Paper No. 219 (Q157 Opp154) published on 2008-02-05)

#### **Answer**

The Honourable Minister wishes to inform the National Assembly that the area under focus was visited by the Traffic Officer and an assessment done. Currently the speed limit to Linden is 60 mph unto the Kara Kara Bridge.

Having considered all the issues concerned, including housing development, the Police Administration has recommended that the speed limit on the Soesdyke Linden Highway between the Millie’s Hideout area to Kara Kara Bridge be reduced to 30 mph.

### **4. MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly:

Why, given that Section 78(1) of the Police Act provides that “Every member of the Special Constabulary, when called out for full time service..., shall be paid for his services as may be provided for by Parliament, at the same rate as a member of the Force of equivalent rank”.



- (i) Some members of the Special Constabulary are not in receipt of their monies from the President's Annual Award?
- (ii) Some members of the Special Constabulary are not paid commuted overtime?

**(Notice Paper No. 220 (Q158 Opp155) published on 2008-02-05)**

**Answers**

The Honourable Minister wishes to inform the National Assembly that there are two (2) categories of Special Constables:

1. Regular Specials, who are paid from Government Funds; and
2. A Self-Funding Section (Guystac) who are paid by funds earned from various agencies and corporations who hire their services. Hence the difficulty.

The money paid by these Agencies/Corporations is inadequate. This is complemented by often loss of revenue due to absenteeism, and larceny from places of employment. These are the main reasons for the shortage of funds to pay the one month bonus to these ranks.

5. **AVAILABILITY OF PATROL BOATS IN THE 'D' DIVISION OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Would the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly whether 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force has any patrol boats available to it to service its two sub-divisions?

If yes, can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Whether this/these boat/boats is/are available on a 24 hour basis?
- (b) Whether the Guyana Police Force has adequate human resources to man this/these boat/boats?

- (c) Where is/are this/these boat/boats moored when not in active use?
- (d) Is the Honourable Minister satisfied with the operational capacity of the Guyana Police Force to patrol the Demerara and Essequibo rivers?

If no, could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Why 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force is without any patrol boats to enable them to carry out their statutory duties in the Demerara and Essequibo rivers?
- (b) When will 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force receive patrol boats for its Division?

**(Notice Paper No. 221 (Q159 Opp156) published on 2008-02-05)**

### **Answers**

The Honourable Minister wishes to inform the National Assembly that there are three (3) boats available to service the two sub-divisions.

- (a) They are available on a 24 hour basis.
- (b) The human resources are adequate at this time.
- (c) The boats are moored in the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers.
- (d) The current operational capacity of the boats of the Force covers the Demerara River between Timehri to Georgetown.

The Essequibo River poses severe challenges for the Force. However, the Police have a boat at Charity and a boat at Wakenaam. They are supported by two (2) Community Policing Group boats. A boat is currently being made available for the Police in 'G' Division in the Essequibo River.

Patrols are also done by one boat based at Bartica and supported by one Community Policing Group boat. In direct response to the question of satisfaction, one can hardly be satisfied with its level of services until it can provide a boat service in all riverain communities.

The current services are inadequate to provide effective patrols, investigations and to deal with issues in the Essequibo River.

**6. MANDATORY DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME****Member Asking: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs**

Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly if:

- (i) A mandatory drug testing programme exists for Ranks within the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Prison Service?
- (ii) If so, how often are Ranks tested?
- (iii) If not, why not?

**(Notice Paper No. 226 (Q160 Opp 157) published on 2008-02-19)**

**Answers**

The Honourable Minister wishes to inform the National Assembly that:

- (i) No mandatory drug testing programme exists within the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Prison Service;
- (ii) The Police Act does not provide for drug testing;
- (iii) The Administration of the Guyana Prison Service has never found the prevalence of drug use among its ranks as an issue of concern to the Department and thus never advocated that a special dispensation of acquiring/establishing a drug testing programme for ranks to be introduced.
- (iv) However, the Prison Department is not averse to the implementation of such a programme, since it will allow for the screening of staff in an effort to determine whether they are under the influence of any narcotic drug, while discharging their statutory responsibilities.
- (v) Any such mandatory testing would have to be part of the Government's policy of drug testing for recruitment into the Public Service.

**For Oral Replies**

**7. THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT**

Mr. Winston Murray, on behalf of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, asked the Minister of Human Services and Social Security the following questions:

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) \*Whether Regulations have been drafted to give effect to the Domestic Violence Act?
- (ii) \*When these Regulations would be laid in the National Assembly?  
(Notice Paper No. 203 (Q149 Opp 146) published on 2008-02-06)

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, on behalf of the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, moved that the answer to the above question be deferred.

**8. INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF DR. WALTER RODNEY**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications the following question:

\*It has been two and a half years since Resolution No. 69 was passed on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2005, in the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana calling for a full and impartial investigation into the death of Dr. Walter Rodney, which received local, regional and international support. Why has this Resolution not been honoured to date?  
(Notice Paper No. 211 (Q151 Opp148) published on 2008-01-14)

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Prime Minister supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

9. **GUYSUCO'S TENDER DOCUMENT**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Agriculture the following question:

\*At the November 08, 2007 sitting of the National Assembly the Minister gave a commitment to supply the name(s) of the Company that won the GUYSUCO tender to supply seventy (70) Desktop computers and fifteen (15) Laptop computers even though no compliance certificates for NIS and PAYE were a requirement of the tender. What is the name of the company that won this Tender?

**(Notice Paper No. 212 (Q152 Opp149) published on 2008-01-14)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Agriculture Supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

10. **LINDEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

Mr. Winston Murray, on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister of Education explain to this National Assembly why no classes have been held at the Linden Technical Institute since the academic term began on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008?
- (ii) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly when will concerns regarding the appointment of teachers, who have been acting since 1996 at the Linden Technical Institute, be addressed?

**(Notice Paper No. 216 (Q154 Opp151) published on 2008-02-05)**

14.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

11. **THE CRITCHLOW LABOUR COLLEGE**

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, asked the Minister of Education the following question:

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly what plans his Ministry intends to put in place to ensure that classes at the Critchlow Labour College resume forthwith?

**(Notice Paper No. 217 (Q155 Opp152) published on 2008-02-05)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

12. **CAMPBELLVILLE AND KITTY HEALTH CENTRES**

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, asked the Minister of Health the following question:

\*Could the Minister of Health tell this National Assembly how soon the Campbellville Health Centre and the Kitty Health Centre will provide services to children who suffer punctured wounds, especially in the wake of the Minister's call for the utilization of medical facilities around the country, rather than over crowding the Georgetown Public Hospital?

(Notice Paper No. 218 (Q156 Opp153) published on 2008-02-05)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin asked the Minister of Health a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT CO. INC.**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS citizens continue to register dissatisfaction with the Guyana Power and Light Co.'s inefficient service and constant blackouts; the practice of estimating electricity bills at rates far above normal monthly billing amounts; back billing for suspected meter tampering and imposing pay-back arrangements that are burdensome to the consumer;

AND WHEREAS the Public Utilities Commission has had cause to enquire into the Guyana Power and Light's service, billing practices, disconnection practices and motives and procedures with respect to making arrangements for customers to repay amounts charged for back billing, but such enquiries have not led to a reduction of complaints and concerns pertaining to GPL's service;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That a Special Select Committee be established to enquire into and to investigate the services being provided by the Guyana Power and Light Co. and to make recommendations for its improvement;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Special Select Committee be permitted to received evidence from Members of the public and organizations, including consumers, the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Associations, the Private Sector and civil society organizations working with affected groups;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Special Select Committee report to this National Assembly within three months and the National Assembly communicates the findings and recommendations to the Guyana Power and Light Co. for their adoption.

**(Notice Paper No. 196 (M50 Opp 13) published on 2007-12-06)**

The following Members spoke motion:

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

While Mr. Anthony Vieira was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.



**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Anthony Vieira continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Labour

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Thereafter, Mr. Raphael Trotman replied.

Mr. Raphael Trotman moved the following amendments which were put and negatived:

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Sectoral Standing Committee on Economic Services immediately enquires into and investigates the services being provided by the Guyana Power and Light Co. Inc. and to make recommendations for its improvement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Sectoral Standing Committee on Economic Services reports to this National Assembly within three months and thereafter the National Assembly communicates the findings and recommendations to the management of the Guyana Power and Light Co. Inc. and the Government of Guyana for their adoption and implementation.”

Thereafter the motion was then put and negatived.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.47 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.18 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 2 - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAW REFORM COMMISSION**

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the British Guiana Legislature enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation many of which remain in force more than 100 years after their enactment;

AND WHEREAS, since Guyana attained its independence on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1966, the Parliament of Guyana also enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation;

AND WHEREAS an ongoing and systematic review of all of these Acts of Parliament, together with their subsidiary legislation, is required to ensure that they are updated, amended and, where necessary, repealed;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have an ongoing and continuing process for the review, updating and modernization of the laws of Guyana, including the enactment of new legislation, which respond to and reflect the present and future needs and aspiration of the people of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS it is accepted, in many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, that the most efficient and institutional mechanism to systematically review and modernize the laws of their respective countries and plan for future legislation is a permanent Law Reform Commission;

AND WHEREAS many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries have established permanent Law Reform Commissions,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government to establish an independent permanent Law Reform Commission with the mandate, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To keep under continuous review, all of the Laws of Guyana, with the view to their systematic development and reform, including:  
the modification of any branch of the law; the elimination of anomalies; the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments; the reduction of the number of separate enactments; and generally, the modernization of the law;
2. To receive and consider suggestions for the reform of the law which may be forwarded to it by Ministers of the Government; public officials; associations of lawyers and members of the public;
3. To obtain such information, in regard to the laws and legal systems of other countries, as in the opinion of the Commission, is likely to facilitate the effective performance of any of its functions;
4. To make recommendations to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for the modification, repeal and generally, for the modernization of the Law of Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No. 207 (M55 Opp 15) published on 2007-12-24)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall

Thereafter Mrs. Deborah Backer replied.

The motion was then put and negatived.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.51 p.m., the Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to commence and conclude the debate on the motion on the Limit on the Aggregate amount of Debt Obligations.

**ITEM 3 - LIMIT ON THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS**

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act was assented to by His Excellency the President of Guyana on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the said Act is intended, *inter alia*, to improve accountability in fiscal management;

AND WHEREAS Section 81 of the said Act makes provision for the forgiveness, postponement or reduction of debts by the Minister of Finance;

AND WHEREAS Section 81(3) of the said Act provides that the National Assembly may set a limit on the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced by the Minister of Finance without the approval of the National Assembly in any fiscal year;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly hereby sets a limit of \$10 million (ten million dollars) as the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced without the approval of the National Assembly;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this limit takes effect from fiscal year 2007.

**(Notice Paper No. 213 (M 58 Opp 16) published on 2008-01-18)**

While the Minister of Finance was speaking to the motion the Speaker suspended the sitting.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 10.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 10.20 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Speaker disallowed the Minister of Finance from continuing and concluding his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan


The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Thereafter Mr. Winston Murray replied.

The motion was then put and negatived.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.50 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

  
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**HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**26<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.**