

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 69<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 MONDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2008**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)**

**Speaker (1)**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (40)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (39)**

**(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 (Absent – on leave)

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 Foreign Affairs

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

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

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**\*Non-elected Minister**

2.

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 (Absent - on Leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education -

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

\*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*WEF April 10th 2008*

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

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)

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**\*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. ✓

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent-on leave) ✓

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 ✓

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P. ✓

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

**Members of the Opposition (27)**

**(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (21)**

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. (Absent – on leave)

\*\*\*Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

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Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

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

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

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)

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

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

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: 10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) (No. 3) Order 2008 – Order No. 43 of 2008.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders ) (No. 3) Order 2008 – Order No. 44 of 2008.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Loan Contract No. 1929/BL-GY between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on April 6, 2008 for US\$20,900.00 for the Agricultural Export Diversification Program.

(Circulated)

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- (iv) Loan Contract No. 1938/BL-GY between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on April 6, 2008 for US\$12,000,000 for the Power Sector Support Program.

(Circulated)

- (v) Amendatory Contract Loan No. 1558/SF-GY (Amendment No. 1) between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on October 16, 2008 for US\$17,428,200 for the Agricultural Support Services Program.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Loan Contract No. 2091/BL-GY between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on December 12, 2008 for US\$5,000,000 for the Financial Sector Reform Program.

(Circulated)

- (vii) Note Verbale No. 001504 dated March 6, 2008 between the Government of Guyana and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the cancellation of Guyana's debt to Venezuela for the amount of US\$12,500,000.

(Circulated)

- (viii) Loan Agreement No. 742-GY between the Government of Guyana and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) signed on July 24, 2008 for SDR1,850,000 for the Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development Project (READ).

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-****For Written Replies****1. CORONER'S INQUEST****Member Asking: Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.****Minister Answering: Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs**

Can the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs state the current number of Coroner's Inquest pending in Guyana?

**(Notice Paper No. 295 (Q211 Opp 206) published on 2008-10-27)**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

**2. NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED FOR 72 HOURS OR MORE****Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.****Minister Answering: Minister of Home Affairs**

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs provide this National Assembly with a list of the number of persons detained for the year 2007, at each Police Station listed below, for 72 hours or more, who were subsequently released without any charges being preferred against them:-

- (i) Sparendam Police Station
- (ii) Beterverwagting Police Station
- (iii) Vigilance Police Station

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- (iv) Cove and John Police Station
- (v) Brickdam Police Station
- (vi) Providence Police Station

**(Notice Paper No. 309 (Q225 Opp 220) published on 2008-11-05)**

The Minister of Home Affairs did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

3. **ACTING APPOINTMENTS – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**Member Asking:** Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister of Education provide this National Assembly with a list of all the vacant senior positions in which officers of the Department of Education and Central Ministry of Education are acting?
- (ii) Could the Minister say why this has been so, and when will these vacancies be filled?

**Notice Paper No. 338 (Q252 Opp 239) published on 2008-12-03)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The following is a list of all vacant senior positions within the Central Ministry of Education and Departments of Education:
  - Chief Education Officer
  - Assistant Chief Education Officer (Nursery)
  - Assistant Chief Education Officer (Primary)



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- Deputy Permanent Secretary (Finance)
- Principal Assistant Secretary (Finance)
- Deputy Permanent Secretary (Admin)
- Principal Assistant Secretary (Admin)
- Regional Education Officer (Region No. 3)

(ii) Appointments and promotions to positions in the Public Service comes under the Jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.

4. **SUPPLY OF POTABLE WATER TO MONKEY MOUNTAIN**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister responsible for Housing and Water

- (i) Can the Honourable Minister responsible for Housing and Water advise on the status of the contract awarded over three years ago, for the distribution of potable water in Monkey Mountain?
- (ii) When can the inhabitants of Monkey Mountain expect to have potable water in their taps as has been long promised by this administration?

**Notice Paper No. 340 (Q254 Opp 241) published on 2008-12-03)**

The Minister responsible for Housing and Water did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

5. **REPAIRS TO BRIDGE KARASABAI**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Local Government

Can the Honourable Minister of Local Government advise this Assembly when the bridge into Karasabai which has been in a state of disrepair for over two years will be repaired?

**Notice Paper No. 341 (Q255 Opp 242) published on 2008-12-03)**

**Answer:**

The Member asking this question is not precise as to which bridge leading into Karasabai he wants repaired. There are three (3) bridges (Jawari Creek Bridge, S. Creek Bridge and Yurora Creek Bridge) situated between Meeterzero and Karasabai along the Morero Mountain pass. Further, I am not aware of any of these structures being in a state of disrepair.

I am however, aware of an existing problem with the approaches at the Yurora bridge across the Yurora River. Latest information is that the structure is intact. Due to heavy and continuous rainfall in that part of Region 9 erosion has taken place. The Regional Administration and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development are aware of this situation and as recent as Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, Coordinator of Hinterland Affairs within the Ministry, former Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., and the Regional Chairman of Region 9, Mr. Clarindo Lucas, visited this bridge and made an on-the-spot assessment of the erosion. Temporary measures have since been put in place to facilitate crossing on the bridge.

Subsequently, the Regional Engineer visited the site and has submitted a design and costing to effect repairs. The Office of the Prime Minister has been requested to assist under the hinterland road programme. Alternatively, Ministry of Local Government will seek funding under the 2009 budget.

11.

I must mention that heavy rains in the North and South Pakarimas during the first half of 2008 have caused damaged to sections of the roadway, up the mountains and even the flat areas. It is hoped that in early of 2009 monies will be made available to rehabilitate the affected sections.

**For Oral Replies**

6. **POTABLE WATER IN MADHIA-REGION #8**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., on behalf of Mrs. Latchmin Budhan-Punalall, M.P., asked the Minister responsible for Housing and Water the following question:

\*When will the residents in Madhia-Region #8 including Campbelltown receive potable water through their taps?

**(Notice Paper No. 281 (Q 199 Opp 194) published on 2008-10-21)**

Thereafter the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

7. **GUYANA'S LEGAL TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. asked the Minister of Labour the following question:

\*Can the Honourable Minister of Labour tell this National Assembly whether the nominee of the Guyana Trades Union Congress is Guyana's legal trade union representative to the International Labour Organisation?

**(Notice Paper No. 316 (Q232 Opp227) published on 2008-11-20)**

Thereafter the Minister of Labour replied.

8. **GUYANA'S MINISTERIAL DELEGATION TO THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONFERENCE**

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. asked the Minister of Labour the following questions:

- (i) \*Can the Honourable Minister of Labour tell this National Assembly whether the nominee of the Guyana Trades Union Congress is a standing member of Guyana's Ministerial delegation to the annual International Labour Organisation Conference in Geneva?
  
- (ii) \*Can the Honourable Minister of Labour tell this National Assembly how many times a nominee of the Guyana Trades Union Congress was a member of Guyana's Ministerial delegation to the International Labour Organisation conference between the years 2003 to 2008?

**(Notice Paper No. 317 (Q233 Opp228) published on 2008-11-20)**

Thereafter the Minister of Labour replied.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Labour replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Labour replied.

9. **BARBARA STOEN'S APPEAL**

At the request of the Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., on behalf of Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P., and with the approval of the Assembly, the following question was deferred.

\*Would the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs inform this National Assembly on what grounds the Guyanese judiciary denied Barbara Stoen's appeal to gain custody of her child and remove the child from Jonestown?

**(Notice Paper No. 332(Q247 PPP/C No. 12) published on 2008-11-28)**

10. **DEPENDENTS PENSION FUND**

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P. asked the Minister of Finance the following questions:

- (i) \*Can the Hon. Minister confirm whether some dependents/pensioners receive cheques as low as ninety Guyana dollars (G\$90) per month and of approximately 3000 pensioners at least 400 receive cheques less than five hundred dollars (\$500) per month?
- (ii) \*Can the Hon. Minister also confirm that, the monthly administrative cost of the Dependents Fund exceeds the total monthly pension payouts?
- (iii) \*How long has this fund operated at a deficit? When will this situation be rectified?

**Notice Paper No. 334 (Q248 Opp235) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

11. **COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS**

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister of Education explain to this National Assembly his Government's rationale for closing all Community High Schools in July, 2009?
- (ii) \*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly what programmes, if any, will be used to fulfill the objectives of the establishment of Community High Schools.

**Notice Paper No. 335 (Q249 Opp 236) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

12. **MILK FEEDING PROGRAMME**

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly why the “Milk Feeding Programme” in the Georgetown schools and schools on the coastlands no longer exists?
- (ii) \*Is there any plan by the Government to restart this programme?
- (iii) \*If not, will there be a substitute for the Milk Feeding Programme for those children who most need it?

**Notice Paper No. 336 (Q250 Opp 237) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

13. **TEACHERS' UPGRADING PROGRAMME**

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following question:

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Education inform this National Assembly why the over 300 teachers who successfully completed the teachers' upgrading programme were denied entry into the Teachers' Training College?

**Notice Paper No. 337 (Q251 Opp 238) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

16.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

14. **CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN BAMBOO CREEK**

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

\*Can the Honourable Minister of Finance advise on the status of the contracts awarded by the Procurement and Tender Administration Board for the construction of a primary school, a health outpost and teachers' quarters in Bamboo Creek?

**Notice Paper No. 339 (Q253 Opp 240) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.



15. **SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN CUBA**

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., asked the Minister of the Public Service the following questions:

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly when last the Government officer responsible for our scholarship students in Cuba visited our students in Cuba?
- (ii) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly how much is the stipend received by each of our scholarship students in Cuba?
- (iii) \*How is this stipend being paid to the students?
- (iv) \*Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly if there is any current arrangement between the Government of Cuba and Guyana enabling students studying in Cuba to be supported by their parents?

**Notice Paper No. 342 (Q256 Opp243) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of the Public Service replied.

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., asked the Minister of the Public Service supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of the Public Service replied.

16. **2008 CUBAN SCHOLARS – FULFILMENT OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., asked the Minister of the Public Service the following questions:

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly how many students have completed their studies in Cuba during 2008 and returned to Guyana to fulfill their contractual obligations?
- (ii) \*Has the Government of Guyana been able to provide each Cuban graduate with relevant employment?

**Notice Paper No. 343 (Q257 Opp244) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of the Public Service replied.

17. **DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATED BY UNICEF**

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

- \*Could the Honourable Minister of Health tell this National Assembly how he proposes to distribute the medical supplies donated by UNICEF for the interior Regions?

**Notice Paper No. 344 (Q258 Opp245) published on 2008-12-03)**

Thereafter the Minister of Health replied.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

The Minister of Home Affairs made a personal explanation re: the non-submission of copies of his answer to Question No. 225 to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members of Parliament.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill  
No. 24/2008 published on 2008-12-18**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councilors of local democratic organs.

**(Read a first time on 2008-12-22)**

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

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

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.16 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Robert Corbin

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 and 2** were passed as printed.

**Clause 3**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

Insert after section 2 the following as section 3 –

<p>“Mayors, Deputy Mayors, etc.</p>	<p>3. Notwithstanding anything in section 2 or in any other provision of this Act, the Minister may on request of a local democratic organ or on his instructions authorize the holding of election at any time for the election of a Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of a local democratic organ.”</p>
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Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., moved the following amendments, which were put and negatived:

“After the word ‘Act’ in line 2 delete the words ‘the Minister may on request of a local democratic organ or on his instructions authorize the holding of election at any time for’

“After the word ‘organ’ in the last line delete the full stop ‘.’ and insert the words ‘shall be held annually until the holding of Local Government Elections’”.

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., moved the following amendments, which were put and negatived on the following division:

“After the word ‘organ’ in the fourth line delete the words ‘or on his instructions’”

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Declined To vote</b>
Mr. Franklin	Mr. Whittaker	Mr. DeSantos
Mr. Patterson	Mr. Seeraj	
Mrs. Holder	Mr. Parmanand Persaud	
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Neendkumar	
Mr. Fernandes	Mr. Nandlall	
Ms Kisson	Mr. Lumumba	
Ms Wade	Mr. Khan	
Dr. Austin	Mrs. Edwards	
Ms Selman	Mr. Chand	
Mr. Mervyn Williams	Mr. Atkinson	
Mrs. David-Blair	Mr. Ali	
Mr. Elliot	Ms Shadick	
Mr. Danny	Mrs. Chandarpal	
Miss Ally	Mr. Nokta	
Mrs. Lawrence	Ms Teixeira	
Dr. Norton	Mr. Ramotar	
Mr. Basil Williams	Mr. Prashad	
Mrs. Backer	Dr. Ramsaran	
Mr. Carberry	Dr. Fox	
Mrs. Riehl	Mr. Nadir	
Mr. Murray	Mr. Benn	
Mr. Corbin	Dr. Anthony	
	Mr. Lall	
	Dr. Westford	
	Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett	
	Dr. Ramsammy	
	Dr. Jeffrey	
	Mr. Baksh	
	Mr. Rohee	
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Clause 3 was then passed as amended on the following division:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Declined To vote</b>
Mr. Franklin	Mr. Whittaker	Mr. DeSantos
Mr. Patterson	Mr. Seeraj	
Mrs. Holder	Mr. Parmanand Persaud	
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Neendkumar	
Mr. Fernandes	Mr. Nandlall	
Ms Kisson	Mr. Lumumba	
Ms Wade	Mr. Khan	
Dr. Austin	Mrs. Edwards	
Ms Selman	Mr. Chand	
Mr. Mervyn Williams	Mr. Atkinson	
Mrs. David-Blair	Mr. Ali	
Mr. Elliot	Ms Shadick	
Mr. Danny	Mrs. Chandarpal	
Miss Ally	Mr. Nokta	
Mrs. Lawrence	Ms Teixeira	
Dr. Norton	Mr. Ramotar	
Mr. Basil Williams	Mr. Prashad	
Mrs. Backer	Dr. Ramsaran	
Mr. Carberry	Dr. Fox	
Mrs. Riehl	Mr. Nadir	
Mr. Murray	Mr. Benn	
Mr. Corbin	Dr. Anthony	
	Mr. Lall	
	Dr. Westford	
	Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett	
	Dr. Ramsammy	
	Dr. Jeffrey	
	Mr. Baksh	
	Mr. Rohee	
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**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.10 p.m., the sitting was suspended to allow the Speaker of the National Assembly to consider a Point of Order which was raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.46 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 2 - TRADE UNION RECOGNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No.**

**25/2008 published on 2008-12-18**

At the request of the Minister of Labour the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Trade Union Recognition Act 1997.

**(Read a first time on 2008-12-22)**

**NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

The Speaker extended New Year greetings to Members of the National Assembly and their families. He thanked the media and the staff of the Parliament Office for their support during the year.

Mr. Robert Corbin and the Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of their respective Parties, joined the Speaker in extending New Year greetings to Members of the Assembly, the media and the staff of the Parliament Office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7.50 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.

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

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

**29<sup>th</sup> December, 2008.**