

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 132ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

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

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

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. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Health (Absent – on leave)

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 – on leave)

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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. Charles R. Ramson, 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. Bheri S. Ramsaran, 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

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

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

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

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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

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) (Absent – on leave)

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

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, 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)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

Mr. Lloyd J. Pereira, J.P., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent)

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

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***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

4.

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. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

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

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

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

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) (Absent – on leave)

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

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P.

5.

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Ms Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

- (1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):
Minutes of Proceedings of the 21st Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on
Thursday, 14th October, 2010.

(Circulated)

6.

(2) The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, presented the following:

The National Agricultural Research Institute Annual Report for the year 2009.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Compendium of Documents on Guyana before the First Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 8th Session, May 11, 2010 and the UNHRC 15th Session, September 23, 2010.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Finance:

The Excise Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2010 – No. 5 of 2010.

(Circulated)

(5) The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs, laid the following:

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations 2010 – No. 6 of 2010.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

Compendium of Documents on Guyana before the First Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The Minister of Foreign Affairs made a statement on Compendium of Documents on Guyana before the First Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 8th Session May 11, 2010 and the UNHRC 15th Session, September 23, 2010.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - JUDICIAL REVIEW BILL 2010 – Bill No. 17/2010 published on 2010-10-08

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for an application to the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature for relief by way of judicial review and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2010-10-14)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 23 were passed as printed.

8.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Judicial Review Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.48 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.57 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 2 - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION BILL 2010 – Bill No. 18/2010
published on 2010-10-12

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the mediation of disputes as an alternative to litigation.

(Read a first time on 2010-10-14)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert

9.

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 1-

‘In line one after the word ‘Dispute’ insert the word ‘Resolution’

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 2 to 8 were passed as printed.

Clause 9

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 9(6)(d)-

‘In the fourth line after the word ‘waiver’ delete the word ‘or’ and insert the word ‘of’

Clause 9 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 10 to 13 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 3 - CONTEMPT OF COURT BILL 2010 – Bill No. 19/2010 published on 2010-10-13

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to define and regulate the law with respect to contempt of Court and related matters.

(Read a first time on 2010-10-14)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl
Mr. Bernard DeSanto
Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan
Mr. Mohabir Nandlall
Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 2-

‘In lines three and four after the words ‘interferes’ and ‘interfere’ delete the word ‘or’ and insert the word ‘with’, respectively.

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 5 were passed as printed.

Clause 6

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 6 –

‘In line two after the word ‘liable’ delete the words ‘on indictment’

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 7 to 19 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Contempt of Court Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.21 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

21st October, 2010.