

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 135th 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, 18TH NOVEMBER, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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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. (Absent)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Absent)

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

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.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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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.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

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) (Absent)

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.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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 2.17 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Prayers for Mr. Winston Murray

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P., prayed for a speedy and full recovery of Mr. Winston Murray, M.P.

6.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs took the opportunity under this heading to withdraw High Court Rules No. 3 of 2010 dated 3rd November, 2010 which were laid in the National Assembly on 4th November, 2010.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs presented High Court Rules 2010 – No.4 of 2010.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. PAYMENT OF OLD AGE PENSION 2002 – 2009

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Hon. Minister state how many people were in receipt of old age pension in 2002 to 2009?

(Notice Paper No. 494(Q342 Opp317) published on 2010-10-22)

Answer:

| YEAR | OLD AGE PENSIONERS |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2002 | 33,425 |
| 2003 | 34,485 |
| 2004 | 33,107 |
| 2005 | 33,492 |
| 2006 | 33,438 |

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 2007 | 36,813 |
| 2008 | 40,389 |
| 2009 | 43,398 |
| TOTAL | 288,547 |

2. GEOTECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE HOPE CANAL

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

In view of the government's stated willingness to embrace transparency and accountability, will the Hon. Minister make available to the AFC the geotechnical report for the alignment of the Hope Canal? If so, how soon?

(Notice Paper No. 496(Q344 Opp319) published on 2010-10-22)

Answer:

Due to the length (284 pages) of the answer to the above question, the Speaker directed that the answer be placed in the Parliamentary Library where Members could have access to it.

3. STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS FOR 4 DOOR SLUICES

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Will the Hon. Minister state whether structural drawings have been done for the four door sluice across the Conservancy Dam and for the four door sluice with spill weir? If so, how soon can the AFC get access to copies of them?

(Notice Paper No. 497(Q345 Opp320) published on 2010-10-22)

Answer:

Due to the length (284 pages) of the answer to the above question, the Speaker directed that the answer be placed in the Parliamentary Library where Members could have access to it.

8.

For Oral Reply

4. **CHIEF JUSTICE PENSION ORDER NO. 16/2010**

At the request of Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P., on behalf of Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., the following question to the Minister of Finance was deferred:

Could the Hon. Minister say –

- (i) *What was the basis for making the Chief Justice's Pension Order No. 16/2010?

- (ii) *Why did the Order place the personal emoluments of the Chief Justice at the same level of the Chancellor of the Judiciary?

(Notice Paper No. 495(Q343 Opp318) published on 2010-10-22)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 21/2010

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

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

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006

At the request of Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., consideration of the following motion was deferred:

9.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Freedom of Information Bill 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006 –

A Bill intituled an Act to give access to information to members of the public.

(Notice Paper No. 502 (M158 Opp 51) published on 2010-11-09)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

MOTION

ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2006

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2006 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 500 (M156 Opp 50) published on 2010-11-04)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Bibi Shadick

Mr. David Patterson

Thereafter Mrs. Volda Lawrence replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.25 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 2nd December, 2010.

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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

18th November, 2010.