

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 136th 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, 2ND DECEMBER, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

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 (Absent – performing the
function of Office of the President)

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

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

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent – on leave)

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

/...2

***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 (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

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

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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)

/...3

***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. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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.

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

/...4

4.

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)

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 Kisson, 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.

(There is one vacancy)

/...5

5.

(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)

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.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

1. CHIEF JUSTICE PENSION ORDER NO. 16/2010

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister say –

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

/...6

6.

- (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)

Due to the absence of the Minister of Finance the abovementioned question was not answered.

For Written Reply

2. PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT HYDRO POWER FACILITIES IN GUYANA

Member Asking: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.

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

- (i) Could the Hon. Prime Minister inform the Assembly if any proposal was presented to the Government of Guyana between 2006 and 2009, by any company or group companies to construct hydro power facilities in Guyana at their own expense other than the one presented by Synergy?
- (ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, can the Prime Minister state why these proposals were not actively considered by Government?

(Notice Paper No. 499(Q346 Opp321) published on 2010-10-29)

Answers:

- (i) During the period 2006 – 2009, the Government received two proposals for hydro power development in Guyana:
- Bauxite and Alumina Mining Venture Ltd. (RUSAL) Company was granted 3 years exclusivity to conduct study for a hydropower plant on the Upper Mazaruni River (2007);

/...7

7.

- Dynamic Engineering Inc. (Developer) Company was granted 1 year exclusivity to conduct feasibility study for the development of two .75 MW hydropower station at Tumatumari on the Potaro River (2010).

However, in 2008, the Government also granted the fifth extension of the MOU between GOG and ENMAN SERVICES LTD, dated July 31, 2001, which gave ENMAN the exclusive right to complete feasibility studies with respect to a hydropower project on the Turtruba Rapids on the Mazaruni River. The said MOU expired on July 31, 2010.

Prior to 2006, the GOG also entered into MOUs with the following persons for the development of hydropower projects in Guyana. The said MOUs have all expired.

- Dynamic Engineering Inc. (2002);
- Guyana Poverty Alleviation Group Inc.

(ii) These proposals were all actively considered by the Government.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 28(3)**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 28(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 2nd December, 2010, with the consideration of the motion of Sympathy on the Death of Mr. Winston Shripal Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

(Notice Paper No. 504 (M160 Govt 97) published on 2010-11-26)

8.

The motion was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF MR. WINSTON SHRIPAL MURRAY,

C.C.H, M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, on behalf of Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana -

- place on record our shock and profound grief at the great loss to the Parliament and people of Guyana by the tragic death of Mr. Winston Shripal Murray, C.C.H, M.P., on Monday, 22nd November, 2010;
- pay tribute to the committed and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 5045 (M161 Opp 53) published on 2010-11-26)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Mr. Aubrey Norton

The Minister of Labour

9.

Mr. Everall Franklin
Mrs. Volda Lawrence

Thereafter Mrs. Clarissa Riehl replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.08 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 2 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 21/2010 published on 2010-11-18

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 councillors of local democratic organs.

(Read a first time on 2010-11-18)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams
The Minister of Housing and Water
Mr. David Patterson

10.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Authorities (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.13 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

2nd December, 2010.