

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 153RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2011) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 19TH MAY, 2011
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 (Absent – performing the
functions 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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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

***Non-elected Minister**

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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 (Absent – on leave)

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)

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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 Islands/West Demerara)

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.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

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***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

4.

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

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

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 – on leave)

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)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

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

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 – on leave)

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. (Absent)

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 2.15 p.m.

ANNOUCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Welcomed back to Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker welcomed back Mr. E. Lance Carberry to the National Assembly after a prolonged illness.

6.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the Descendants, Residents and Heirs of the Proprietors of Plantation Northbrook (renamed Victoria), presented a Petition for the recognition of the historic contributions of their Ancestors, then “Group of 83” Proprietors who established the First Village in Post-emancipation Guyana.

(Circulated)

The question that the Petition be read was put and carried.

The Petition was read by the Clerk.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Financial Paper No. 1 of 2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,978,210,661 for the period 2011-04-04 to 2011-05-11.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 2 of 2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$4,276,136,969 for the period ended 2011-12-31.

(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance named the next sitting for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

(2) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

The Central Housing and Planning Authority Annual Reports for the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

(Circulated)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

**1. PROGRAMME TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS IN GUYANA**

At the request of Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, M.P., the following questions were deferred:

- (i) *Could the Honourable Minister of Education inform this National Assembly what programme his Ministry is engaged in to alleviate the problem of inadequate Mathematics and Science teachers in Guyana?

- (ii) *If this programme includes the employment by his Ministry of foreign based teachers, could the Honourable Minister say what conditions, salaries and benefits will these teachers enjoy?

(Notice Paper No. 521 (Q 354 Opp 388) published on 2011-04-11)

For Written Reply

**2. THE CURRENT INCREASE IN WORLD FOOD PRICES, WHICH AFFECTS
MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Member Asking: Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- 1. What will be the approach of this government in reducing food prices having regard to and against the background of the measures undertaken by the World Bank to alleviate the negative consequences of increased food prices in the poorest countries, including the investment of US\$1.24 billion in 35 countries up to September, 2010; also having regard to the Bank assisting countries to develop risk management products to increase capacity to respond to future price increases and promoting a market – led approach to stabilizing

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food price volatility, while the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) sees more room for international management of food markets, including “taxation measures to reduce speculation in global commodity markets”, “innovative commodity price stabilisation schemes” and “emergency finance to protect poor countries during commodity price shocks”?

2. What policies will be undertaken, in cooperation with International Financial Institutions, to encourage investments in agriculture to help prevent chronic insecurity, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)?

(Notice Paper No. 522 (Q 355 Opp 398) published on 2011-04-21)

See APPENDIX for the replies.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 8/2011

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Adoption of Children Act 2009.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - ANIMAL HEALTH BILL 2011 – Bill No. 4/2011 published on 2011-04-21

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

9.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to control the movement of animals into and within Guyana and to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases within Guyana and from other countries, and to ensure the safe and humane movement of animals to and from Guyana and to regulate the importation and production of animal products and livestock feeds and other matters thereto and connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2011-04-28)

While Mr. Mervyn Williams was speaking to the motion the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber.

Presiding by Mrs. Shirley Edwards

At 3.05p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mrs. Shirley Edwards took the Chair.

Return of Speaker

At 3.10 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Mr. Mervyn Williams continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of the Public Service

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“the definition of Authority – In the second line delete the words ‘No. 1’; and
the definition of vehicle – in the second line delete the word ‘see’ and insert the word
‘sea’”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 30 were passed as printed.

Clause 31

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 31(2) – “ in the first line delete the words ‘he or she’ and insert the word ‘officer’.

Clause 31 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 32 to 36 were passed as printed.

Clause 37

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 37(b) – ‘in the first line delete the words ‘his or her’ and insert the words ‘the
officer’s’”

Clause 37 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 38 to 46 were passed as printed.

11.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the Animal Health Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2 - SEEDS BILL 2011 – Bill No. 5/2011 published on 2011-04-21

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate the production, sale, import, export and quality of certain seeds for sowing; to provide for certification of seeds and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2011-04-28)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.07 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mervyn Williams

Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture 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 Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendments were put and carried:

Clause 2(1)(d) – “ delete “certified seed” means the seed that fulfils all requirements for certification under section 18 as basic seed as certified I seed or certified II seed or any variety of seed and notified by the Agency;” and replace it with the following –
“certified seed” means any seed certified as such under section 18;”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 17 were passed as printed.

Clause 18

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“in the third line delete the word ‘certification’

Clause 18 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 19 to 26 were passed as printed.

Clause 27

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“in the last line delete the word ‘certification’

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Clause 27 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 28 to 39 were passed as printed.

Clause 40

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 40((2)(p) – delete the word ‘certification’

Clause 40 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the Seeds Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 3 - PLANT PROTECTION BILL 2011 – Bill No. 6/2011 published on 2011-04-21

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate the importation and exportation of plants, planting material and objects derived from them, to protect from the introduction of exotic pests and diseases to Guyana and to control and eradicate diseases and pests within the country.

(Read a first time on 2011-04-28)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mervyn Williams

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

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Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture 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 Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“Clause 2 (s) definition of Institute – in the last line delete the figure ‘20’ and insert the figure ‘2010’; and

Insert the words ‘No. 31 of 2010’ in the margin; and

Clause 2(ww) – definition of soil – immediately after the word ‘soil’ insert the word ‘means’”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 7 were passed as printed.

Clause 8

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Clause 8(1)(b) – in the last line delete the figure ‘8’ and insert the figure ‘7’”

Clause 8 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 9 to 27 were passed as printed.

Clause 28

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 28(1) – in the fifth line delete the words ‘him or her’ and insert the word ‘offender’”

Clause 28 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 29 and 30 were passed as printed.

Clause 31

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following motion which was put and carried:

In the marginal notes, delete the word ‘defense’ and insert the word ‘defence’

Clause 31 was then passed as amended.

Clause 32 and 33 were passed as printed.

Clause 34

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

Insert the following clause as clause 34 –

“Savings
and
repeal Cap.68:03 34(1) the Plant Protection Act is repealed.

(2) All applicable subsidiary legislation made under the repealed Act, not inconsistent with this Act, shall continue to apply as if they were made under this Act unless or until revoked or amended under this Act.”

Clause 34 was then passed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the Plant Protection Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - CONSUMER AFFAIRS BILL 2011 – Bill No. 7/2011 published on 2011-04-27

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to promote and protect consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and services and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2011-04-28)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Labour

Thereafter the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Thereafter the Consumer Affairs Bill 2011 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

**ITEM 5 - ADOPTION OF THE FIFTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Fifth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 523 (M170 PPP/C 21) published on 2011-04-28)

Ms Cherly Sampson spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.41 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 2nd June, 2011.

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

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.
19th June, 2011.**