

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 150TH 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, 3RD MARCH, 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

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

*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)

***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)

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

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent)

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

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) (Absent – on leave)

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

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

*****Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary**

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4.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

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)

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)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent)

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 2.01 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

Treasury Memorandum pursuant to Resolution No. 141 of the National Assembly dated 18th November, 2010 on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2006.

(Circulated)

6.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments):

The Eleventh Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Judicial Service Commission.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

SALE AND ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES HELD BY THE NICIL

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

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Finance**

Relative to the sale and acquisition of properties held by the NICIL from the period January 1, 2006 to January 15, 2011 –

1. Can the Hon. Minister say into which account(s) all moneys raised by way of sale of properties by NICIL have been deposited?

2. Will the Hon. Minister say what properties are slated for sale by NICILA and the prices sought, how the prices have been or will be set, and the dates when these properties will be placed for sale?

(Notice Paper No. 512 (Q347 Opp322) published on 2011-01-31)

Answers:

- (1) All proceeds received from the sale of properties held by NICIL between the years 2006 – 2001 were deposited into one of two interest bearing accounts held locally in the name of NICIL.

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- (2) Most property sales are conducted via public tender save and except where there are existing leases that contain an option to purchase. In such instances, the lease would have either been advertised or the project may have been deemed as having a significant investment and employment opportunity attached to it.

During the year 2011 NICIL intends to:

- (a) Complete pending property transactions that are pending for various reasons including awaiting Cabinet Decisions or payments by Purchasers.
- (b) Continue offering to the public lands primarily located in Region No. 10 (that were previously owned by Linimine); three properties in Berbice that were previously owned by Bermine and some Guysuco properties.

The prices received for property sales have been the highest possible value that could be achieved in the particular instance. Prices are not set beforehand, but rather determined by either the highest bid received at a public tender or by a current market valuation conducted by an independent valuator.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

TITLE TO LAND (PRESCRIPTION AND LIMITATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 –

Bill No. 3/2011

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) Act.

8.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

**PENSIONS (PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL OFFICES)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 26/2010 published on 2010-12-23**

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act.

(Read a first time on 2010-12-30)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

The Minister of Labour

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Robert Corbin

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

The Bill was the read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed a printed.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to continue consideration of the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 2

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

Clause 2 (a):

Delete “by the repeal of subsections 91) (c), (6) and (7)” and insert the following:

- (a) by the substitution of a full stop for the words “;and” at the end of subsection 1(b) and by the repeal of subsections (1) (c), (6) and (7);

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as amended.

GREETINGS TO WOMEN OF GUYANA ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications extended greetings to women of Guyana on International Women's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.00 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, 10th March, 2011.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

3rd March, 2011.