

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 155TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**  
**(2006-2011) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON FRIDAY, 17TH JUNE, 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

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**

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 (Absent – on leave)

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)

/...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 Islands/  
West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

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/Supenaam)

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) (Absent – on leave)

\*\*\*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/Supenaam)

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 (Absent)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent – on leave)

/...4

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

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. (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 – on leave)

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 – 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. (Absent – on leave)

**Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

**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 2.25 p.m.

**Death of Mother of Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs**

The Speaker informed Members of the Assembly that the mother of the Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs had passed away that morning.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker expressed sympathy to the Hon. Minister and her family.

6.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

- (1) The presentation of the following Reports by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications was deferred:

The Ministry of Public Works and Communications Annual Reports for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

The Guyana Water Incorporated Annual Report for the year 2009.

(Circulated)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

- (3) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Amended Minutes of Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Wednesday, 25th May, 2011.

(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Childcare and Development Services Bill 2009):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Childcare and Development Services Bill 2009 – Bill No. 31/2009.

(Circulated)

- (5) By the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Consumer Affairs Bill 2011):

Report of the Special Select Committee on Consumer Affairs Bill 2011 – Bill No. 7/2011.

(Circulated)

/...7

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS**

**Flooding in Administrative Regions 6, 8, 9 and 10**

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulic made a statement on the flooding in Administrative Regions 6, 8, 9 and 10 as a result of heavy rainfall.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL 2011 – Bill No. 10/2011**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for setting out a practical regime of right to information for persons to secure access to information under the control of public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and public authorities and for the appointment of the Commissioner of Information.

Thereafter the Access to Information Bill 2011 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – SECOND READINGS**

**ITEM 1 - CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BILL 2009 – Bill No.**

**31/2009 published on 2009-07-08**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Childcare and Development Services Bill 2009) moved the second reading of the following Bill which was referred to a Special Select Committee on 9th July, 2009 for consideration and report:

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate childcare services and to provide for parameters for the granting of licences for childcare and development services and connected matters.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-07-09)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Cheryl Sampson

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

Thereafter the Minister of Human Services and Social Security 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** was passed as amended.

**Clause 3** was passed as printed.

**Clauses 4 and 5** were passed as printed.

**Clause 6** was passed as printed.

**Clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13** were passed as printed.



9.

Clause 14 was passed as printed.

Clauses 15 and 16 were passed as amended.

Clauses 17, 18 and 19 were passed as printed.

Clause 20 was passed as amended.

Clauses, 21, 22, 23 and 24 were passed as printed.

Clauses 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 were passed as amended.

Clause 30 was passed as printed.

Clauses 31, 32, 33 and 34 were passed as amended.

### Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, the Child Care and Development Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

### (iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

#### MOTIONS

#### ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEARS 2007 AND 2008

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

/...10

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2007 and 2008, respectively, be adopted and that the Report be referred to the Government for consideration.

**(Notice Paper No. 526 (M173 Opp 54) published on 2011-06-02)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Bibi Shadick

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj

Thereafter Mrs. Volda Lawrence replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
RELATIONS**

Ms Bibi Shadick, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Second Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations be adopted.

**(Notice Paper No. 527 (M174 PPP/C 22) published on 2011-06-02)**

The motion was put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.31 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 23rd June, 2011.

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

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**  
**Public Buildings,**  
**Brickdam,**  
**Georgetown.**

**17th June, 2011.**