

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 156TH 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, 23RD 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 (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and
Regional Development (Absent – on leave)

*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 (Absent – on leave)

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.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.(Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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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/Supenaam)

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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/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

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.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. John Austin, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

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.

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

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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

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

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 2.14p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

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

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

(Circulated)

6.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

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

Minutes of Proceedings of the 24th Meeting of the Committee of Selection of the National Assembly held on Monday, 20th June, 2011.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (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)

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

7.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

PROTECTED AREAS BILL 2011 – Bill No. 11/2011

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the protection and conservation of Guyana's natural heritage and natural capital; the creation, management and financing of a national system of protected areas; the maintenance of ecosystem services of national and global importance including climate regulation; the establishment of a protected areas commission; the establishment and management of a protected areas trust fund; the fulfillment of Guyana's international environmental responsibilities; public participation in protected areas and conservation; and related purposes.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS BILL 2011

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Consumer Affairs Bill 2011) moved the following motion:

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8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Special Select Committee on Consumer Affairs Bill 2011 – Bill No. 7/2011.

(Notice Paper No. 528 (M175 Govt 107) published on 2011-06-17)

Mr. Mervyn Williams spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL – THIRD READING

ITEM 2 - CONSUMER AFFAIRS BILL 2011 – Bill No. 7/2011 published on 2011-04-27

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Consumer Affairs Bill 2011) moved the third 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 second time and committed to a Special Select Committee on 2011-05-19)

Thereafter, the Bill was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.50 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

23rd June, 2011.