

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 160TH 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, 28TH JULY, 2011
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 (Absent – on leave)

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (40)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (39)

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 (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. 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)

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. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

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)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. (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 (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)

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)

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) (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. (Absent)

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 – on leave)

OFFICERS (2)

Ms Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.09 p.m.

Nomination of Acting Speaker of the National Assembly

The Clerk of the National Assembly informed Members of the Assembly that the Speaker and Deputy Speaker were both absent from that day's sitting and that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 4(1), she was required to elect a Member who was not a Minister of the Government or Parliamentary Secretary to preside at that day's sitting. The Clerk accordingly invited nominations.

The floor was opened for nomination of Acting Speaker and Mr. Mohabir Nandlall was nominated by the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications.

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The Clerk declared the Hon. Member Mr. Mohabir Nandlall, M.P., duly elected Acting Speaker to preside at that day's sitting.

The Clerk invited Mr. Mohabir Nandlall, M.P., to the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P., duly declared an Elected Member of the National Assembly

The Acting Speaker informed Members of the Assembly that pursuant to a letter dated 28th July, 2011 from the Guyana Elections Commission to the Representative of the People's Progressive Party/Civic list of Candidates calling on him to extract, from the list the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the National Assembly created by the resignation of Mr. Kellawan Lall, the name of Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P., was extracted from the said list by the Representative.

Accordingly, Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P., was duly declared to be an Elected Member of the National Assembly.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Acting Speaker congratulated Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P., on his appointment.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 15/2011

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Energy Agency Act.

7.

2. **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 16/2011**

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 amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

At 2.20 p.m., the Members of the People's National Congress/Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

BROADCASTING BILL 2011 – Bill No. 13/2011 published on 2011-07-15

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment of the Guyana National Broadcasting Authority responsible for the regulation, supervision and development of the National Broadcasting System, to provide for its functions, and to provide for the licensing of broadcasting agencies and the encouragement of production and broadcasting of television and radio programmes having relevance generally to life and culture of the people and for consequential and related matters.

(Read a first time on 2011-07-21)

8.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Labour

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Ms Gail Teixeira also spoke to the motion.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 18 were passed as printed.

Clause 19

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

“Clause 19(b) –

Delete the word ‘that’ at the beginning of the sentence.

9.

Clause 19(j)

Before the words ‘be varied’ in the first line, insert the word ‘it’

Clause 19(p) –

Before the words ‘be responsive’ in the first line, insert the word ‘it’

Clause 19(q) –

For the words ‘that broadcasting shall ensure’ in the first line, substitute the word ‘ensures’”

Clause 19 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 20 to 22 were passed as printed.

Clause 23

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

“Clause 23(1)(b)(ii) –

After the word ‘nationals’ in the fourth line, insert the words ‘except as provided for in section 19(a)(ii)’

Clause 23(1)(b)(iv)(b) –

For the words ‘sale, change in directors or transfer of controlling shares’ in lines 5 and 6, substitute the words ‘same licence’”

Clause 23 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 24 to 32 were passed as printed.

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Clause 33

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Clause 33(2)(e) –
Delete the words ‘and (d)’ in the fourth line”.

Clause 33 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 34 to 39 were passed as printed.

Clause 40

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Clause 40(2) –
After the word ‘Authority’ in line 2, delete the words ‘in two equal installments payable on or before 30th June, 2012 and on or before 31st December, 2012”

Clause 40 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 41 to 48 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On the motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Broadcasting Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as amended.

EMANCIPATION GREETINGS

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications wished all Guyanese a Happy Emancipation. Mr. David Patterson joined the Prime Minister in wishing all Guyanese a Happy Emancipation.

The Speaker also wished all Guyanese, especially those of African descent, a Happy Emancipation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.45 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 4th August, 2011.

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MR. MOHABIR NANDLALL, M.P.
Acting Speaker of the National Assembly

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

28th July, 2011.