

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**OF THE 6TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2001

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (37)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (36)

(ii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs

* The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Absent)

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

* Non-elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

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

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's Sitting had been granted to -

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Ivor Allen

and

Dr. Dalglish Joseph.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

**ITEM 1 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 2001 -
Bill No. 7/2001 published 30.5.2001**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following

Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in
accordance with articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 31.5.2001)

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of fifty-seven (57) of the sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly, with one abstention, as follows:

For (57)

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Dev | Mrs. Sukhai |
| | Mrs. Sahoye-Shury |
| | Dr. Ramsarran |
| | Mr. Ramjattan |
| Mrs. Melville | Mr. Ramdas |
| Mrs. Holder | |
| | Mr. Mohan |
| | Mr. Lumumba |
| Miss Allen | Mrs. Edwards |
| Miss David | Mr. DeSantos |
| Mr. Ally | Mrs. Chandarpal |
| | Mr. Chand |
| Mr. R. Khan | Mr. Alli |
| Mr. Kadir | Mr. Ramotar |
| | Mr. Belgrave |
| Mr. McAllister | Mr. Mohamed |
| Miss Peterkin | Dr. Ramsammy |
| Dr. Norton | Miss Rodrigues |
| Mr. J. Khan | |
| Miss Adams | Miss Shadick |
| Miss Ally | Mr. Xavier |
| | Dr. Westford |
| Mrs. Lawrence | Mr. Sawh |

Mr. Goveia
 Mr. Alexander
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Ming
 Mr. Bernard
 Mrs. Backer

Mr. Carberry
 Mrs. Riehl
 Mr. Murray

Mr. Collymore
 Dr. Bisnauth
 Mr. Gajraj
 Mr. Chandarpal
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Kowlessar
 Dr. Jeffrey
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

Total

57

Declined to Vote (1)

Miss Nestor

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 12 were passed as printed.

Clause 13

The following amendment by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was put and carried:

Deletion of the proviso to the new paragraph (1) of
 article 127 of the Constitution.

Clause 13 was passed as amended.

Clauses 14 to 17 were passed as printed.

Clause 18

The following amendment by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was put and carried:

Substitution of the following for paragraphs (2) and (2A):-

“(2) With effect from the commencement of this paragraph, a person holding the office of Judge on the said commencement shall vacate that office on attaining -

- (a) in the case of a Puisne Judge, the age of sixty-two years;
- (b) in the case of any other Judge, other than the Chancellor, the age of sixty-five years; and
- (c) in the case of the Chancellor, the age of sixty-eight years.

(2A) A person appointed to the office of Judge after the commencement of this paragraph shall vacate that office on attaining -

- (a) in the case of a Puisne Judge, the age of sixty-five years; and
- (b) in the case of any other Judge, the age of sixty-eight years.”

Clause 18 was passed as amended.

Clauses 19 to 24 and the Second and Third Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reported and moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following fifty-eight (58) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

For (58)

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen

Miss David

Mr. Ally

Mr. R. Khan

Mr. Kadir

Miss Nestor

Mr. McAllister

Miss Peterkin

Dr. Norton

Mr. J. Khan

Miss Adams

Miss Ally

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. Goveia

Mr. Alexander

Mr. Trotman

Mr. Ming

Mr. Bernard

Mrs. Backer

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Dr. Ramsarran

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. DeSantos

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Miss Rodrigues

Miss Shadick

Mr. Xavier

Dr. Westford

Mr. Sawh

Mr. Collymore

Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Gajraj

Mr. Chandarpal

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Kowlessar

Dr. Jeffrey

Miss Teixeira

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Murray

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Persaud

Mr. Hinds

Total**58**

The Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 2001 -
Bill No. 8/2001 published 30.5.2001

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in
 accordance with articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 31.5.2001)

Mr. Raphael Trotman spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of fifty-three (53) of the sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

For (53)

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Dr. Ramsarran

Mr. Ramjattan

Mrs. Melville
Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally

Miss Nestor
Mr. McAllister

Dr. Norton
Mr. J. Khan
Miss Adams
Miss Ally

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. Trotman
Mr. Ming
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer

Mr. Carberry
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. DeSantos
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Chand
Mr. Alli
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Belgrave
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues

Miss Shadick
Mr. Xavier
Dr. Westford
Mr. Sawh
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

Total

53

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reported and moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following fifty-seven (57) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

For (57)

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Dev | Mrs. Sukhai |
| | Mrs. Sahoye-Shury |
| | Dr. Ramsarran |
| | Mr. Ramjattan |
| Mrs. Melville | Mr. Ramdas |
| Mrs. Holder | |
| | Mr. Mohan |
| | Mr. Lumumba |
| Miss Allen | Mrs. Edwards |
| Miss David | Mr. DeSantos |
| Mr. Ally | Mrs. Chandarpal |
| | Mr. Chand |
| Mr. R. Khan | Mr. Alli |
| Mr. Kadir | Mr. Ramotar |
| Miss Nestor | Mr. Belgrave |
| Mr. McAllister | Mr. Mohamed |
| Miss Peterkin | Dr. Ramsammy |
| Dr. Norton | Miss Rodrigues |
| Mr. J. Khan | |
| Miss Adams | Miss Shadick |
| Miss Ally | Mr. Xavier |
| | Dr. Westford |
| Mrs. Lawrence | Mr. Sawh |
| | Mr. Collymore |
| Mr. Alexander | Dr. Bisnauth |
| Mr. Trotman | Mr. Gajraj |
| Mr. Ming | Mr. Chandarpal |

Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer

Mr. Carberry
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

Total

57

The Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) BILL 2001 -
Bill No. 9/2001 published 30.5.2001

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in
accordance with articles 66 and 164.
(Read a first time on 31.5.2001)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Stanley Ming
Miss Genevieve Allen
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal.

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of the following fifty-seven (57) of the sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

For (57)

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen

Miss David

Mr. Ally

Mr. R. Khan

Mr. Kadir

Miss Nestor

Mr. McAllister

Miss Peterkin

Dr. Norton

Mr. J. Khan

Miss Ally

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. Goveia

Mr. Alexander

Mr. Trotman

Mr. Ming

Mr. Bernard

Mrs. Backer

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Murray

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Dr. Ramsarran

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. DeSantos

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Miss Rodrigues

Miss Shadick

Mr. Xavier

Dr. Westford

Mr. Sawh

Mr. Collymore

Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Gajraj

Mr. Chandarpal

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Kowlessar

Dr. Jeffrey

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Persaud

Mr. Hinds

Total

57

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reported and moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following fifty-seven (57) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

For (57)

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Dev | Mrs. Sukhai |
| | Mrs. Sahoye-Shury |
| | Dr. Ramsarran |
| | Mr. Ramjattan |
| Mrs. Melville | Mr. Ramdas |
| Mrs. Holder | |
| | Mr. Mohan |
| | Mr. Lumumba |
| Miss Allen | Mrs. Edwards |
| Miss David | Mr. DeSantos |
| Mr. Ally | Mrs. Chandarpal |
| | Mr. Chand |
| Mr. R. Khan | Mr. Alli |
| Mr. Kadir | Mr. Ramotar |
| Miss Nestor | Mr. Belgrave |
| Mr. McAllister | Mr. Mohamed |
| Miss Peterkin | Dr. Ramsammy |
| Dr. Norton | Miss Rodrigues |
| Mr. J. Khan | |
| | Miss Shadick |
| Miss Ally | Mr. Xavier |
| | Dr. Westford |
| Mrs. Lawrence | Mr. Sawh |
| Mr. Goveia | Mr. Collymore |

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Mr. Alexander | Dr. Bisnauth |
| Mr. Trotman | Mr. Gajraj |
| Mr. Ming | Mr. Chandarpal |
| Mr. Bernard | Mr. Baksh |
| Mrs. Backer | Mr. Kowlessar |
| | Dr. Jeffrey |
| Mr. Carberry | Miss Teixeira |
| Mrs. Riehl | Mr. Nokta |
| Mr. Murray | Mr. Rohee |
| | Mr. Persaud |
| | Mr. Hinds |

Total

57

The Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 4 - SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS) VALIDATION BILL 2001 - Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001

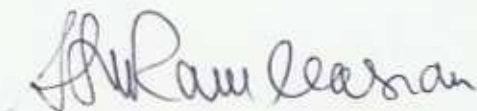
At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to validate the constitution and proceedings of the Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, constituted pursuant to the declaration on 19th day of December, 1997 of the results of the national and regional elections, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 24.5.2001)

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 25th June, 2001.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hari N. Ramkarran', written in a cursive style.

HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

21st June, 2001.