

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND**  
**SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2003**  
**IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,**  
**LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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 (34)**

**(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)**

**(iii) 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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 (Absent-on leave)

\* 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

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

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. (Absent-on leave)

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)

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)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

\*Non-Elected Minister

\*\*Elected Member from The United Force

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

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

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)

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. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Amna 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) (Absent-on leave)

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)

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)

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(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. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.13 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:

The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, and

Ms Lurlene A. Nestor, for that day's sitting.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2003**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with article 66 and 164.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - MODALITIES TO GIVE EFFECT TO PROVISIONS FOR ARTICLE 119C**

Assembly resumed consideration of the following motion.

WHEREAS in respect of each Commission in Column 1 of the TABLE the National Assembly has in relation to the corresponding article in Column 2 of the TABLE the power mentioned in Column 3 of the TABLE;

TABLE

COMMISSION	ARTICLE	POWERS
Judicial Service Commission	198 (2) (b)	the meaningful consultation with such bodies as appear to it to represent attorneys-at-law in Guyana to be done by the National Assembly and the signification of its choice of members to be made to the President
Public Service Commission	200 (1) (b)	two members appointed by the President upon nomination by the National Assembly after it has consulted such bodies as appear to represent public officers or classes of public officers
Police Service Commission	210 (1) (c)	four members appointed by the President upon nomination by the National Assembly after it has consulted such bodies as appear to it to represent the majority of the members of the Police Force and any other such body it deems fit
Ethnic Relations Commission	212B. (1) (a)	the determination of the consensual mechanism entrusted to the National Assembly and the determination of the entities to make nominations entrusted to the National Assembly



COMMISSION	ARTICLE	POWERS
Public Procurement Commission	212X.(1) and (2)	the five members of the Public Procurement Commission should have expertise and experience in procurement, legal, financial and administrative matters and be nominated by the Public Accounts Committee and approved by not less than two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly.

AND WHEREAS article 119C reads -

“There shall be a Standing Committee of the National Assembly which shall have the responsibility for initiating or otherwise taking such action or addressing such matters as may be entrusted to the Committee by the National Assembly in respect of functions required to be discharged by the Assembly under the Constitution in relation to the appointment of a member of a Commission established under the Constitution.”



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that "the Standing Committee, to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions established under the Constitution", appointed by the Committee of Selection on April 4, 2003, as provided for by and pursuant to article 119C of the Constitution and under the provisions of Standing Order 70A:

- (a) shall identify the appropriate bodies for consultation in the appointment of the relevant members of the Commission, conduct the necessary consultations with them and, where necessary, receive nominations from appropriate bodies;
- (b) shall make recommendations to the National Assembly:
  - (i) for a Consensual Mechanism for the Ethnic Relations Commission, the Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Indigenous Peoples' Commission and the Rights of the Child Commission;
  - (ii) for the appointment of members of the Commissions with the exception of the Public Procurement Commission; and
  - (iii) in connection with any other matter referred to it by the National Assembly from time to time.

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(c) shall report to the National Assembly in relation to each Commission as soon as possible upon the discharge[d] of its function in relation thereto.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this National Assembly approves that the under-mentioned entities shall be included among the entities to be consulted in respect of the appointment of the Service Commissions mentioned below:

i the Guyana Bar Association and the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers; with respect to the Judicial Service Commission

ii the Guyana Public Service Union and the Senior Staff Association with respect to the Public Service Commission; and

iii the Guyana Police Association, the Association of former members of the Guyana Police Force and the National Community Policing Executive with respect to the Police Service Commission.

**(Notice Paper No. 40(M13 Govt12) published 2003-04-10)**

The following amendment by the Minister of Health was agreed to:

“That the last resolved clause be deleted.”

Mr. Lance Carberry continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Hon. Minister of Health

Mr. Ravindra Devi

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Robert Corbin.

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport replied.

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of the following fifty-five (55) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly.

**FOR**

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen

Miss David

Mr. Ally

Mrs. Bancroft

Mr. R. Khan

Mr. Kadir

Miss Peterkin

Dr. Norton

Mr. J. Khan

Miss Adams

Miss Ally

Dr. Joseph

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. Goveia

Mr. Alexander

Mr. Trotman

Mr. Ming

Mrs. Backer

Mr. Allen

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Murry

Mr. Corbin

**FOR**

Mr. Mustapha

Mrs. Sukhai

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. DeSantos

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Nadir

Miss Shadick

Mr. Xavier

Dr. Westford

Mr. Sawh

Mr. Collymore

Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Gajraj

Mr. Chandarpal

Mr. Baksh

Dr. Jeffrey

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Hinds

**ITEM 2 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 3/2003 -  
published on 2003-04-14**

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance,  
moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act and the Income  
Tax Act.

**(Read a first time on 2003-04-14)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4:07 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

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Thereafter, the Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

### **In Committee of Supply**

#### **Clause 1**

Mr. Winston Murray moved the following amendment to Clause 1- Sub-clause 2,  
“Insert between the words “the” and “schedule” the words “third” carried.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 1 was passed as amended.

**Clause 2**

Mr. Winston Murray moved the following amendment.

“Delete the word “April” insert the word “June”.”

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 2 was passed as printed.

**Clause 3**

Mr. Winston Murray moved the following amendment.

“For the words “\$240,000” substitute “\$264,000”.”

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

**Clause 4**

Mr. Winston Murray moved the following amendment.

“For the words “two hundred and forty thousand dollars” substitute the words  
“two hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars.”

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The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 4 was passed as printed

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

**Clause 6**

Mr. Winston Murray moved the following amendment.

“For the words “two hundred and forty thousand dollars” substitute the words  
“two hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars”.”

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 6 was passed as printed.

Clause 7 was passed as printed.

**Assembly Resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill was read the third time and passed as amended on the following division.



**AGAINST**

Mrs. Melville  
Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen  
Miss David  
Mr. Ally  
Mrs. Bancroft  
Mr. R. Khan  
Mr. Kadir  
Mr. McAllister  
Miss Peterkin  
Dr. Norton  
Miss Adams  
Miss Ally  
Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. Trotman  
Mr. Ming  
Mr. Bernard  
Mrs. Backer  
Mr. Allen  
Mr. Carberry  
Mrs. Riehl  
Mr. Murry

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**FOR**

Mr. Mustapha  
Mrs. Sukhai  
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury  
Dr. Ramsarran  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Mr. Rajkumar  
Mr. Mohan  
Mr. Lumumba  
Mrs. Edwards  
Mr. DeSantos  
Mrs. Chandarpal  
Mr. Alli  
Mr. Ramotar  
Mr. Belgrave  
Mr. Mohamed  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Nadir  
Miss Shadick  
Mr. Xavier  
Dr. Westford  
Mr. Sawh  
Mr. Collymore  
Dr. Bisnauth  
Mr. Gajraj  
Mr. Chandarpal  
Mr. Baksh  
Dr. Jeffrey  
Miss Teixeira  
Mr. Nokta  
Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

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**ITEM 3 - LAND REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2002 - Bill No. 14/2002 published**  
**on 2002-12-05**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Land Registry Act.  
(Read a first time on 2002-12-05)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Raphael Trotman  
The Minister of Housing and Water  
Mr. Dereck Bernard  
Mrs. Sheila Holder  
Mr. Lance Carberry  
Mrs. Shirley Melville

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

A motion by Mr. Raphael Trotman seconded by Mrs. Deborah Backer, for the Bill to be committed to a Special Select Committee was put and negatived.

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by Mr. Cyril Belgrave, the Land Registry (Amendment) Bill 2002 was read the third time and passed and printed on the following division.

**AGAINST**

Mrs. Melville  
Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen  
Miss David  
Mr. Ally  
Mrs. Bancroft  
Mr. R. Khan  
Mr. Kadir  
Miss Peterkin  
Dr. Norton  
Miss Adams  
Dr. Joseph  
Mr. Trotman  
Mr. Ming  
Mr. Bernard  
Mrs. Backer  
Mr. Allen  
Mr. Carberry  
Mrs. Riehl  
Mr. Murray

**FOR**

Mr. Mustapha  
Mrs. Sukhai  
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury  
Dr. Ramsarran  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Mr. Rajkumar  
Mr. Mohan  
Mr. Lumumba  
Mrs. Edwards  
Mr. DeSantos  
Mrs. Chandarpal  
Mr. Alli  
Mr. Ramotar  
Mr. Belgrave  
Mr. Mohamed  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Nadir  
Miss Shadick  
Mr. Xavier  
Dr. Westford  
Mr. Sawh  
Mr. Collymore  
Dr. Bisnauth  
Mr. Gajraj  
Mr. Chandarpal  
Mr. Baksh  
Dr. Jeffrey  
Miss Teixeira  
Mr. Nokta  
Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

**ITEM 4 - KIDNAPPING BILL 2002 - Bill No. 15/2002 published on 2002-12-05**

On a motion by Mr. Lance Carberry, Chief Whip, seconded by Mrs. Deborah Backer, and with the approval of the Assembly, consideration of the following Bill was deferred.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the punishment of the offences of abduction, wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement for ransom and other related offences and for matters incidental thereto.

**(Read a first time on 2002-12-05)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:57 p.m., on a motion by the Hon. Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.



**HARI N. RAMKARRAN**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

8<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.