

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 44TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 30TH DECEMBER, 2004
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

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

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

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

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

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) (Absent)

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)

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.

Mr. Neendkumar, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

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

*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. (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)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

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

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

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)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.

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)

(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. (Absent)

OFFICERS

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 2.06 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Mr. Robert Corbin,

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

and

Ms Lurlene Nestor for that day's sitting

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (i) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the Proceedings of the 11th Meeting of the Committee of Selection of the Second Session held on 16th December, 2004.

(Circulated)

- (ii) By the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Combating Trafficking in Persons Bill 2004 - Bill No. 12/2004.

(Circulated)

- (iii) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

Special Report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES BILL 2004 - Bill No. 26/2004

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish regional health authorities with responsibility for providing for the delivery of and administering health services and health programmes in specified geographic areas and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 25/2004 published on 2004-12-15

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

(Read a first time on 2004-12-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

and

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Sections 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

The following amendments by Mr. Winston Murray which were seconded by Mr. Raphael Trotman were put and negatived:

7.

P624 - Item 2 - insert after the word "any" in the third line the word "licensed". Delete all the words following the word "company" in the third line and replace with the words "and shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner General to be imported for use by such broadcasting company".

P628 - Item 16(1) - Delete the word "in" in the second line and replace it by the following words "under the laws of". Delete all the words following the word "hospital" in the fifth line.

Item 16(2) - Delete all the words following the word "hospitals" in the second line and replace with the following words "in accordance with the laws of Guyana and shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner General to be imported solely for such use".

P633 - Item 40(1) - Delete the words "as approved by the Minister" in the third line and replace with the following words "which the Commissioner General is satisfied is for use in any project approved by the Minister for the utilisation of renewable sources of energy."

Schedules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Customs (Amendment) Bill 2004 - Bill No. 25/2004 was read a third time and passed as printed, subject to minor corrections.

BILL - Report from Select Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 2 - COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL 2004 - Bill No. 12/2004 published on 2004-07-27

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved:

- (i) That the report of the Special Select Committee on the Combating Trafficking in Persons Bill 2004, was adopted, and
- (ii) That the Combating Trafficking in Persons Bill 2004 was read the third time and passed as amended.

Mrs. Deborah Backer spoke to the motion.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Speaker thanked the Members of Parliament, the Media and the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for the support they gave to him during the past year. He also extended new year greetings.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Winston Murray and Mrs. Sheila Holder, on behalf of their respective Parties, also extended new year greetings to the Speaker, other Members of Parliament, the Media and the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.56p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

30th December, 2004.