

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 54TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

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) (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on Leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/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)

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) (Absent - on Leave)

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) (Absent)

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)

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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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Maurice B. Henry, Head Committees Division

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2. 10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Deputy Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

International Women's Day

The Speaker extended his warmest greetings and felicitations and those of the National Assembly to the women Members of Parliament on International Women's Day. He said that he looked forward to the continuing contributions of and into dimensions added by women Members of Parliament to the deliberations of the National Assembly.

He took the opportunity, on behalf of the National Assembly, to wish all women of Guyana and the world best wishes on International Women's Day and great success in their fight against

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discrimination and violence. He expressed special recognition and solidarity to women suffering unspeakable brutalities in conditions of war, poverty and disease, and hoped that the efforts to relieve their conditions would be successful.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Written Replies

1. SOLID WASTE TRANSFER AND DISPOSAL IN GUYANA

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Prime Minister the following questions:

Can the Hon. Prime Minister say:

- (i) Whether the Government of Guyana received a written project proposal from M.R.F.G. for solid waste transfer and disposal in Guyana?
- (ii) If a written project proposal was received, when will it be provided to Members of the National Assembly?
- (iii) If the Government of Guyana and the M.R.F.G. signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the disposal of solid waste in Guyana, and if so, when?

(Notice Paper No. 120 (Q57 Opp56) published on 2004-10-26)

Written replies submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister:

- (i) A written project proposal from M.R.F.G. Ltd., was submitted to the Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest).
- (ii) It is not considered useful for this document to be tabled in the National Assembly at this early point in time. We understand that the investors are considering embarking on a feasibility study and an Environment Impact Assessment with the Environmental Protection Agency.

- (iii) The Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest), on behalf of the Government of Guyana signed an initial Memorandum of Understanding with the M.R.F.G. Project Management Ltd., for the disposal of solid waste in Guyana. This document indicates that the Government of Guyana is supportive of the establishment of a Material Recovery Facility in Guyana, contingent on M.R.F.G. Ltd., fulfilling the conditions of the Environmental Protection Agencies of the United States and Guyana. This Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the 4th December, 2003.

2. **BOOSTING OF THE COAST GUARD'S ABILITY**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Prime Minister the following question:

What plans, if any, are in place to boost the Coast Guard's ability to perform interdiction duties?

(Notice Paper No. 134 (Q71 Opp70) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister:

It is quite common that there is caution in disclosing plans for security forces in detail. Honourable Member can be assured that the Government of Guyana will continue the programme of appropriate improvements of the capability of the Coast Guard within our means.

3. **ACQUISITION OF PATROL BOATS AND AIRCRAFT FOR THE GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Prime Minister the following question:

What plans are there to acquire patrol boats and aircraft for use by the Guyana Defence Force?

(Notice Paper No. 158 (Q95 Opp94) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister:

It is quite common and quite understandable that there is caution in disclosing plans for defence and security forces in detail. Honourable Member can be assured however that the Guyana Defence Force has serviceable patrol boats and aircraft and that the Government of Guyana would continue its programme of appropriate improvement of the capability of the Guyana Defence Force within our means.

4. **NATIONAL FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan asked the Prime Minister the following questions:

- (i) Is it true that Mr. K. Nascimento c/o of a company PCCL is paid in excess of \$237,000.00 per month out of the accounts of the National Frequency Management Unit?
- (ii) What services does Mr. K. Nascimento or his company provide to this Unit as consideration for such a monthly sum?
- (iii) Is this arrangement in any written agreement?
- (iv) How much monies have been so paid to Mr. K. Nascimento and/or PCCL out of National Frequency Management Unit and for what period? How long will this continue for?

(Notice Paper No. 159 (Q96 Govt2) published on 2004-11-06)

Written replies submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister:

Mr. Christopher A. Nascimento, through his company Public Communications Consultants Ltd., was retained by written Contract by the Office of the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of Guyana, as Public Communications Consultant. His tasks included advising on public

communications and public relations matters concerning the telecommunications sector (including the Modernization of Telecommunications Sector Project) and the broadcasting sector, for which services he was paid a monthly sum of \$237,500. by the National Frequency Management Unit.

Mr. Nascimento was first so engaged in September, 2003. His Contract expired on January 31, 2005 and consideration is being given to its renewal as the Office of the Prime Minister conducts a review of its needs in the area of public communications.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2005 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2005

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2005.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2005-02-21)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- 011 Head Office Administration
- 012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
- 013 Amerindian Development
- 014 Public Policy
- Div.501 Office of the President

09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

Div. 505 - Code 25002 Public Service Commission

10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

101 Teaching Service Commission

Div 505 - Code 25008 Teaching Service Commission

11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION

111 Elections Commission

112 Elections Administration

Div. 505 - Code 25010 Guyana Elections Commission

53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

531 Defence Head Quarters

Div. 501 - Code 12001 Guyana Defence Force

57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

571 Ombudsman

58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

Div. 505 - Code 25009 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

311 Ministry Administration

312 Public Works

313 Communications and Transport

Div. 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air

Div. 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences

Div. 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications

Div. 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges/Roads

15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

151 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Div. 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

041 Ministry Administration

042 Foreign Relations

043 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Div. 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Deferment of Agency 07- Parliament Office

At the request of the Hon. Prime Minister consideration of the following Agency was deferred to Wednesday, 9th March, 2005:

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

071 National Assembly

Div. 505 - Code 25003 Parliament Building

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

441 Ministry Administration

442 Culture

443 Youth

444 Sport

445 Youth, Entrepreneurial Skills Training

Div. 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

41- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

411 Main Office

412 National Education Policy

413 Ministry Administration

414 Training and Development

415 Education Delivery

Div. 543 Ministry of Education

Div. 544 Ministry of Education -

Secondary School Reform Project

Div. 547 Guyana Education Access Project

Div. 553 Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 9th March, 2005.



HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown.

8th March, 2005.