

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 63RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 23RD JUNE, 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 (Absent - on leave performing the functions of President)

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 (Absent)

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent - on leave)

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

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) (Absent - on leave)

* 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 (Absent)

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

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. J. Ronald Gajraj, 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 - Pomereroon/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)

*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. , Leader of the Opposition
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. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)
Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.
Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.
Dr. Dagleish 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) (Absent - on leave)
Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
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) (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

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

(i) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Samuel Hinds,

Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, for that day's sitting,

Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, up to 30th June, 2005

Mr. Ivor Allen,

Mr. Vincent Alexander,

Miss Myrna Peterkin,

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman,
Miss Lurlene Nestor,
Miss Shirley Melville, for that day's sitting
and
Mr. Raphael Trotman, up to 31st August, 2005.

(ii) **Welcome back to Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P.**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, welcomed Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip back to the National Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Health:

(i) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

(ii) State Paper on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

(Circulated)

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following Papers:

(i) Financial Paper No. 2/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$722,501,201 for the period 2005-04-05 to 2005-06-21.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 3/2005 - Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totaling \$2,908,382,000 for the period ending 2005-12-31.

(Circulated)

6.

- (3) the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions), presented the following Report:

Fifth Report of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions.

(Circulated)

- (4) By Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee):

The Audit Regulations 2005 (Regulations No. 4 of 2005).

(Circulated)

- (5) By Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services):

First Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

ITEM 1 - GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 6/2005 published on 2005-06-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997 to further support the institution and success of prosecutions under the Act and regulations made thereunder.

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ITEM 2 - CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY
BILL 2005 - Bill No. 7/2005 published on 2005-06-13

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the Agreement
establishing the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards
and Quality and for matters connected therewith.

ITEM 3 - VALUATION FOR RATING PURPOSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No.
8/2005 published on 2005-06-13

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Valuation for Rating
Purposes Act.

ITEM 4 - MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill
No. 9/2005 published on 2005-06-20

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District
Councils Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 5 - CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

The Minister of Health moved the following motion:

WHEREAS a State Paper on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) along with the Convention has been presented to this National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the government is seeking the support of the Assembly to accede to the Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the State Paper on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and approve of the Government's accession to the Convention.

(Notice Paper No. 195 (M79 Govt73) published on 2005-06-14)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray,

Dr. Dalglish Joseph,

Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth

and

Mrs. Sheila Holder.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The Minister of Health moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the Government’s accession to the Convention.”

ITEM 6 - FIFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS

At the request of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, consideration of the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President that the following persons -

Ms Rosemary Benjamin-Noble

Ms Dawn Edwards

Mrs. Ann Pamela Forde

Mr. Shadiek Ishmael

Ms Lucinda Miller

10.

Ms Bijulee Moti
Ms Magda Lois Muriel Pollard, C.C.H.
Ms Vanda Radzik
Mrs. Indranie Rameshwar
Mrs. Kamla Devi Ross
Mr. Clarindo Rudolph
Ms Doodmattie Singh
Ms Norma Shirleen Thomas
Ms Joy Walton and
Ms Brenda Williams

have been nominated in accordance with article 212Q(2)(a) of the Constitution to be appointed Members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission.
(Notice Paper No. 198 (M82 Govt76) published on 2005-06-22)

ITEM 7 - CONFIRMATION OF THE AUDIT REGULATIONS 2005

At the request of Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) , consideration of the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 11(4) of the Audit Act, No. 5 of 2004, confirm the Audit Regulations 2005 (Regulations No. 4 of 2005), which was made on 30th May, 2005, under section 11(1) of the Audit Act, No. 5 of 2004, and published in the Official Gazette dated 30th May, 2005.

(Notice Paper No. 197 (M81 Govt75) published on 2005-06-21)

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ITEM 8 - FIRST PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

At the request of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services), consideration of the following motion was deferred:

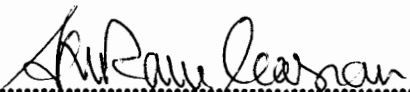
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the First Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 196 (M80 Govt74) published on 2005-06-20)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.30 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Wednesday, 29th June, 2005.


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

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

23rd June, 2005.