

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 71<sup>ST</sup> 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, 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 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

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 - 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)

\* 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

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)

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)

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

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.

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 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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) (Absent - on leave)

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)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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)

4.

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

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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 - on leave)

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Bibi Baldeo, Principal Assistant Secretary (F)

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The sitting commenced at 2.12p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Seat of Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.**

The Speaker, as promised at the sitting of the National Assembly on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 reported on the letter that he had received from the Leader of the Opposition requesting that the seat of the Hon. Member Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., be declared vacant pursuant to Article 156 (3) of the Constitution.

The Speaker stated that according to Articles 64, 156 (2) and (3) and 163 that it was clear that only the High Court has jurisdiction not only in relation to questions as to membership of the National Assembly but in relation to whether any member is required to cease to exercise functions by virtue of Article 156 (3) on which Mr. Corbin was relying and that the jurisdiction of the Court is exclusive.

The Speaker further stated that in the circumstances he had no power to make the declaration sought by Mr. Corbin.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **MOTIONS**

#### **ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2005**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

#### **In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$970,605,112 for the period 2005-06-22 to 2005-10-14.

*(Notice Paper No. 223 (M89 Govt82) published on 2005-10-19)*

*(Paper presented on 2005-10-20)*

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$970,605,112 for the period 2005-06-22 to 2005-10-14.

**ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/2005**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/2005 - Supplementary Estimate ( Capital) totalling \$4,360,003,429 for the period ending 2005-12-31.

*(Notice Paper No. 224 (M90 Govt83) published on 2005-10-19)*

*(Paper presented on 2005-10-20)*

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

7.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/2005 - Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$4,360,003,429 for the period ending 2005-12-31.

**BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS**

**ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 3 FOR 2005) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 16/2005 published on 2005-10-19**

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3 of 2005) Bill No. 16/2005 to be introduced at this stage.

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3 of 2005) Bill No. 16 of 2005 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

**ITEM 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 14/2005 published on 2005-10-12**

The Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1996.

*(Read a first time on 2005-10-20)*

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry,

and

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The Bill was then 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.

**Clause 3**

The Prime Minister moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 3(b) - "At the end of Clause 3 (b) delete the full stop and insert "and the word each".

Clause 3 was passed as amended.

**Clause 4** was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 14./2005 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 5 - NATIONAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 15/2005 published on 2005-10-14**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the National Registration Act.  
*(Read a first time on 2005-10-20)*

Mr. Vincent Alexander, M.P., was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

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

Mr. Vincent Alexander, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Donald Ramotar,

Mr. Robert Corbin,

and

Mrs. Shirley Melville.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 10 were passed as printed.**

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the National Registration (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 15/2005 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**BILL - Report from Select Committee and Third Reading**

**ITEM 6 - AGE OF CONSENT BILL 2004 - Bill No. 22/2004 published on 2004-11-29**

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

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Age of Consent Bill 2004, be adopted.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, the Age of Consent Bill 2004 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**MOTION**

**ITEM 7 - REPORT AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Health, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005 the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly Report of the Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor to the Guyana National Assembly and Addendum of the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly dated 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2005 and 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 respectively, were laid in the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the said Report makes recommendation in connection with the functioning of the National Assembly,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly notes the said Report and its recommendations:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That a Select Committee be appointed to make recommendations to the National Assembly on the implementation of the said recommendations after considering prioritisation, methodology and the advisory papers of James Pender.

*(Notice Paper No. 222 (M88 Govt81) published on 2005-10-14)*

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry,

The Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.),

Mr. Winston Murray,

and

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The following amendments moved by Mr. Winston Murray and seconded by Mr. E. Lance Carberry were put and carried:

“In the second WHEREAS clause in the first line, substitute the word “recommendations” for “recommendation”.

13.

In the BE IT RESOLVED clause, delete the words “notes the said Report and its recommendations” and substitute the words “accepts in general the recommendations of the said Report”.

In the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause, number the first clause (a) and add the following as (b):

“That the said Select Committee report to the National Assembly by January 31, 2006”.

The motion was then put and carried.

#### **Traffic Arrangements during Sitzings of the National Assembly**

The Speaker, informed the Assembly that he had instructed the Clerk of the National Assembly to meet with the Commissioner of Police to make arrangements for the free flow of traffic around the Public Buildings during sittings of the National Assembly.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7.58 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.



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

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**27<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.**