

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 72ND 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, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (38)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (3)

(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 Home Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

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 (Absent)

- 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 Culture, Youth and Sport (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. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
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) (Absent)
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)

*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) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Basil Williams, 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. (Absent - on leave)

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)

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)

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 - on leave)

OFFICERS

Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.14p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Harry Narine Nawbatt was appointed Minister of Transport and Hydraulics with effect from 1st November, 2005. The Speaker stated that Mr. Nawbatt was not an elected Member of the National Assembly but, by virtue of holding the Office of Minister, he had become a Member of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 105 of the Constitution.

5.

Before Mr. Nawbatt could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he would have to make and subscribe the oath of office, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution.

Mr. Nawbatt made and subscribed the oath which was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker announced that he had been informed that the former Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, the Hon. Anthony Xavier, had been redesignated Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport and that the former Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Hon. Gail Teixeira had been appointed Minister of Home Affairs.

Congratulations to New Minister

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Nawbatt on his appointment as a Minister, welcomed him to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him for a successful term in office.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on 27th October, 2005.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) The Value-Added Tax Regulations 2005.

(Circulated)

6.

(ii) The Excise Tax Regulations 2005.

(Circulated)

(3) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Education, presented the Annual Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2004.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

(i) The Minimum Wages (Watchmen) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 34 of 2005).

(Circulated)

(ii) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 35 of 2005).

(Circulated)

(iii) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 36 of 2005).

(Circulated)

(iv) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 37 of 2005).

(Circulated)

(v) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 38 of 2005).

(Circulated)

7.

- (vi) The Minimum Wages (Mechanical Transport Employees) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 39 of 2005).

(Circulated)

- (vii) The Minimum Wages (Employees at Petrol Filling Stations) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 40 of 2005).

(Circulated)

- (viii) The Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Minimum Rate of Wages) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 41 of 2005).

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Written Replies

1. PAYMENT OF WATER RATES

Mr. Abdul Kadir, M.P., asked the Minister of Housing and Water the following question:

Will the Minister of Housing and Water state, whether persons in the areas of Retrieve and North Mackenzie, who were previously supplied with water from the Water Treatment Plant located in the Alumina Plant compound, required to pay water rates to the Guyana Water Inc.?

(Notice Paper No. 219 (Q130 Opp125) published on 2005-10-05)

Written rely submitted by the Minister of Housing and Water:

Customers at Retrieve and North McKenzie have been paying water rates to Guyana Water Inc., and before to Guyana Water Authority.

2. **DRAIN CLEANING IN LINDEN/REGION # 10**

Mr. Abdul Kadir, M.P., asked the Minister of Agriculture (a.g.) the following questions:

Would the Minister of Agriculture who is responsible for Drainage and Irrigation (D&I) state the following:

- (i) What is the total number and value of D&I contracts issued for cleaning drains in Linden for the year 2005?
- (ii) Were the contracts for Drain cleaning in Linden/Region # 10 approved by the Regional Procurement Board of Region # 10?
- (iii) Which agency will monitor the implementation of the contracts issued for Drain cleaning in Linden?
- (iv) What is the total length and volume of Drains to be cleaned for each of the areas in Linden for which contracts were issued and what is the value of the contract for each area?

9.

- (v) What is the unit rate paid for cleaning/excavation of Drains in Linden?
- (vi) What are the comparative unit rates for cleaning Drains in each of the ten (10) Regions?

(Notice Paper No. 213(Q124 Opp 119) published on 2005-10-05)

Written replies submitted by the Minister of Agriculture:

(i)

No. of Contracts	Description of Works	Quantity	Cost G\$
24	The works involves manual cleaning, de-silting and maintenance of earthen and concrete drains and weeding of parapets.	23,433 rods	22,845,160

See Appendix 1 for additional Information.

(ii) No. All contracts undertaken in Region No. 10 by the National Drainage and Irrigation Board are approved by the Ministry of Agriculture Procurement Board. These contracts are procured as follows:

- Project proposals from CDC and any other Groups must be acknowledged by the National Director of Community Development Councils before consideration is given for them to be engaged in any Drainage and Irrigation works.
- These proposals are referred to the RDC No. 10 for recommendation and to avoid duplication of works.
- The recommended proposals are then technically examined and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture Procurement Board for approvals.

- (iii) Contracts awarded by the National Drainage and Irrigation Board are being monitored by the NDIB, RDC No. 10 and CDC groups.
- (iv) See Appendix 1
- (v) There is no fix unit rate paid for cleaning/excavation of drains in Linden. The unit rate differs for each project. The Unit rate is calculated based on the project size, complexity, condition and nature of works to be undertaken.

(vi)

	Description of Works	Quantity	Rate G\$
Region Nos 2 - 6	Mechanical clearing and grubbing of embankment (20' wide), cleaning and excavation of channel (30' below existing bed level of channel) and place material to form embankment.	1 rod	2,000 - 2,500
Region No. 10	The works involve manual cleaning, de-silting and maintenance of earthen and concrete drains, creeks, weeding of parapets and cart-away material.	1 rod	400 - 700

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. **HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 17/2005**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the High Court Act.

2. **COMPETITION AND FAIR TRADING BILL 2005 - Bill No. 18/2005**

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 promote, maintain and encourage competition and to prohibit the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition and the abuse of dominant positions in trade; to promote the welfare and interests of consumers, to establish a Competition Commission and for connected matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONFIRMATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX REGULATIONS 2005

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act, 2005 (Act No. 10 of 2005) requires that regulations made under section 95(3) be subject to affirmative resolution of this National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for such regulations to be subject to the scrutiny of the Assembly before their affirmation,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Value-Added Tax Regulations 2005, made under section 95(3) of the Value-Added Tax Act (Act No. 10 of 2005) on 31st October, 2005 and published in the Gazette on 31st October, 2005, be referred to a Select Committee for consideration without any question being put thereon, and no further proceedings be taken until the Committee has reported thereon.

(Notice Paper No. 225 (M91 Govt84) published on 2005-11-08)

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE EXCISE TAX REGULATIONS 2005

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS section 15 of the Excise Tax Act, 2005 (Act No. 11 of 2005) requires that regulations made under section 15 be subject to affirmative resolution of this National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for such regulations to be subject to the scrutiny of the Assembly before their affirmation,

13.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Excise Tax Regulations 2005, made under section 15 of the Excise Tax Act (Act No. 11 of 2005) on 31st October, 2005 and published in the Gazette on 31st October, 2005, be referred to a Select Committee for consideration without any question being put thereon, and no further proceedings be taken until the Committee has reported thereon.

(Notice Paper No. 226 (M92 Govt85) published on 2005-11-08)

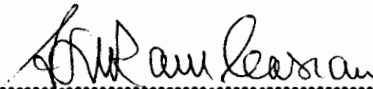
Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.58 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 24th November, 2005.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

10th November, 2005