

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 38TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2013
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)

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

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Hon. Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of the Public Service

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Education (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini),
Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the
Ministry of Finance

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Bibi S. Shaddick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

***Non-Elected Minister**

3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/
West Demerara)

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

**Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Members of the Opposition (33)

(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

****Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

Ms Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkhan, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

5.

(iii)Members of The Alliance For Change (7)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

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 2.26 p.m. with Mrs. Deborah Backer M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

In the absence of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Deputy Speaker did not allow the Minister of Home Affairs to present the following Bills:

6.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. **EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 7/2013**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act.

2. **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 8/2013**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government to present the following Bill

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 2/2013 published on 2013-01-08

At the request of the Minister of Finance the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-01-10)

7.

ITEM 2 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 18/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

ITEM 3 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 17/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

ITEM 4 - FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 21/2012 published on 2012-09-04

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-10-22)

8.

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 5 - THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO

**INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE FROM 2004
TO 2010 IN GUYANA**

At the request of Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, consideration of following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana prescribes that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, "The President may issue a commission appointing one or more commissioners and authorizing such commissioner or commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare";

AND WHEREAS this country has witnessed a pattern of unlawful killing of undetermined numbers of persons – including assassinations; executions; murders; extra-judicial killings by members of the Guyana Police Force Target Special Squad and other forms of criminal violence in Guyana during a period of 'troubles' on the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara and elsewhere – which were harmful to the public welfare;

AND WHEREAS several of these killings have been of a deliberate and systematic nature – particularly those which occurred at Agricola; Bartica; Buxton; Eccles; Lindo Creek; Lusignan and Bel Air, Bourda and Kitty in Georgetown – which can be classified as massacres and have engendered alarm and despondency among the population;

AND WHEREAS some killings involved members of the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force and unidentified criminal gangs in which gangsters were equipped with a variety of electronic ‘eavesdropping’ equipment, weapons and vehicles that were provided with assistance and support by members of the Guyana Police Force;

AND WHEREAS commissions of inquiry and coroners’ inquests have not been conducted into some unnatural deaths and criminal investigation reports by the Guyana Police Force, with regard to the most egregious of these crimes, have often been inconclusive;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people’s elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and which is obliged to consider the grave threats to the public welfare and public security which prevailed during the aforesaid period of the ‘troubles’ and which remain substantially uninvestigated,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of citizens of Guyana which occurred during the period of the ‘troubles’ and expresses its concern that commissions of inquiry have not been convened to investigate the unlawful killings, including the assassination of a Minister of the Government in April, 2006, on the East Coast of Demerara;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the unlawful killing of citizens during the years 2004 to 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 112 (M47 Opp 29) published on 2012-12-12)

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 6 - THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 4 of 2013
published on 2013-02-08

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Constitution of Guyana in accordance with Article 164 of the Constitution of Guyana.

(Read a first time on 2013-02-07)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Bibi Shaddick

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.45 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.12 p.m., the sitting resumed with the Speaker in the Chair.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2013.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., replied.

The Bill was read a second time on the following division:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Allen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Ms Shaddick
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett

Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

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Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed on the following division:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Ms Shaddick

Mr. Allen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

Assembly resumed

On a motion by Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed as printed on the following division:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Allen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Ms Shaddick
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran

Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

33

Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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ITEM 7 - THE FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT)

BILL 2013 – Bill No. 5 of 2013 published on 2013-02-08

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and
Accountability Act 2003.

(Read a first time on 2013-02-07)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.47 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2013.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.47 p.m., due to grave disorder by some Members, the Speaker of the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 47(9), adjourned the sitting to a date to be fixed.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

14th February, 2013.

