

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 78th 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, 19th January, 2006
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 (Absent)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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. 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 Culture, Youth and Sport

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) (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)

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

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Absent)

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 (Absent on leave)

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)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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.

Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P.

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P.

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. (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 E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.10p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

- (i) **Resignation of Mr. Raphael Trotman and Ms Lurlene Nestor**
- (ii) **Election of Mr. Joseph Hamilton and Mr. Dave Danny**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Raphael Trotman and Ms Lurlene Nestor had resigned as Members of the National Assembly, with effect from 27th December, 2005, and 31st December, 2005, respectively, and that following his call upon the representative of the list of candidates, in which Mr. Trotman's and Ms Nestor's names were included, he was informed that the names of Mr. Joseph Hamilton and Mr. Dave Danny had been extracted from the said list and that Mr. Joseph Hamilton and Mr. Dave Danny were on the 16th January, 2006 and on the 17th January, 2006 respectively, declared to be elected Members of the National Assembly to fill the vacancies.

The Speaker stated that before Mr. Joseph Hamilton and Mr. Dave Danny could take part in the proceedings of the Sitting of the National Assembly, they would have, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Danny were present, the oath was administered to them by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Danny upon their election to the Assembly and extended best wishes to them.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

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

Minutes of Proceedings of the 16th Meeting (No. 2) of the Committee of Selection, held on Thursday, 24th November, 2005.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Value-Added Tax Regulations 2005 (No. 48/2005).

(Circulated)

- (ii) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Excise Tax Regulations 2005 (No. 12/2005).

(Circulated)

- (iii) Financial Paper No. 9/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,467,645,921 for the period 2005-12-14 to 2005-12-31.

(Circulated)

(The Minister of Finance named the 31st January, 2006 for the consideration of the Financial Paper)

(3) By the Minister of Amerindian Affairs:

Report of the Special Select Committee of the National Assembly on the Amerindian Bill 2005 - Bill No. 13/2005.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Flood affected Coastal Communities

The Minister of Fisheries, Other crops and Livestock made a statement on the flood affected coastal communities.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Flood Situation in various Coastal Communities

A claim by Mr. Robert Corbin, to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the flood situation in various coastal communities, with satisfaction of the Speaker that the matter was definite, urgent and of public importance and could properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly, and with the leave of the Assembly, allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over in accordance with Standing Order No. 13(3).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. **TRADE UNION RECOGNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 1/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Trade Union Recognition Act 1997.

2. **CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (MOVEMENT OF FACTORS) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 2/2006**

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, 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 provisions of the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, including the Caricom Single Market and Economy, relating to the exercise

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by nationals of the Caribbean Community of the right of establishment, the right to provide services and the right to move capital into and within Guyana and out of Guyana to other member states of the Caribbean Community and for connected matters.

3. **CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY BILL 2006 - Bill No. 3/2006**

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 give effect to the revised Treaty of Chauguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community, including the Caricom Single Market and Economy and for matters connected therewith.

4. **MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BILL 2006 - Bill No. 4/2006**

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 give effect to the scheme relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth; and to provide for mutual assistance in criminal matters between Guyana and countries that have a treaty with Guyana concerning such assistance.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

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

The Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 95(3) of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005 (Act No. 10 of 2005), affirm the Value-Added Tax Regulations 2005, made under section 95(3) of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005, on 31st October, 2005 and published in the Gazette dated 31st October, 2005.

(Notice Paper No. 225 (M91 Govt84) published on 2005-11-02)

(Regulations Referred to a Special Select Committee on 2005-11-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister of Housing and Water 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.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Flood situation in various Coastal Communities

In accordance with the earlier decision made, Mr. Corbin moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the flood situation in various Coastal Communities.

The following Members spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock

Mr. Jerome Khan was speaking to the Motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION

At 6:30 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION

At 8:02 pm., the sitting was resumed.

Resumption of the debate on the flood situation in various coastal communities.

Mr. Jerome Khan continued and concluded his speech.

The Minister of Health also spoke to the motion.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE VALUE-ADDED TAX REGULATIONS 2005

The Minister of Housing and Water continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - AFFIRMATION OF THE EXCISE TAX REGULATIONS 2005

The Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 15 of the Excise Tax Act 2005 (Act No. 11 of 2005), affirm the Excise Tax Regulations 2005, made under section 15 of the Excise Tax Act, 2005 on 31st October, 2005 and published in the Gazette dated 31st October, 2005.

(Notice Paper No. 226 (M92 Govt85) published on 2005-11-02)

(Regulations Referred to a Special Select Committee on 2005-11-10)

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.51 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting of the National Assembly was adjourned to Monday, 23rd January, 2006..



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown.

19th January, 2006.