

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 96TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 2ND MAY, 2006
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 (33)

(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 ✓

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 *used ref May 2006*

- * The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs *ceased ref 6/03*
- * 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. (Absent - on leave) ✓
 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) *ceased ref May 2006*
 Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) ✓
 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

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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. (Absent)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

(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.

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Thanks to Members of the National Assembly and Staff of the Parliament Office

The Hon. Speaker expressed thanks to Members of the National Assembly and Staff of the Parliament Office for the support and cooperation they had given to him during the past five years.

The Speaker also made special mention of the unstinting support and hard work of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Opposition Chief Whip in improving the work of the National Assembly.

He also expressed thanks to members of the media, the Attorney General's Chambers and the Hansard Reporters.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS. ETC..

- (1) **By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee):**
The Report of the Standing Orders Committee of the National Assembly on the Draft Standing Orders.

(Circulated)

- (2) **By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:**
The High Court (Amendment) Rules No. 1 of 2006.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-

- (1) **Suspension of Standing Order No. 46 (3)**
The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Tuesday, 2nd May, 2006 with the second readings and the remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2006 and the Justice Protection Bill 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 258 (M117 Govt105) published on 2006-04-27)

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Carberry

Mr. Corbin

FOR

Mr. Dev

Ms. Melville

Mrs. Holder

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Mustapha

Dr. Lall

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Miss Rodrigues

Mr. Nadir

Miss Shadick

Mr. Xavier

Dr. Westford

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Mr. Collymore

Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Kowlessar

Dr. Jeffrey

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Persaud

Mr. Hinds

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(2) **Suspension of Standing Order No. 76(5)**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 76 (5) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the motion for the adoption of the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion to approve the Draft Standing Orders.

(Notice Paper No. 259 (M118 Govt106) published on 2006-04-28)

The motion was then put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 20/2006
published on 2006-04-26

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter Article 61 of the Constitution in accordance with Articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2006-04-27)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

The Minister of Health

At 3.48 p.m., the two Members of the People's National Congress/Reform who were present at that sitting withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. Ravindra Dev also spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3:55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4:50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2006.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

and

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

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

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of the following Members of the Assembly:

DECLINED TO VOTE

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

FOR

Mrs. Holder

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Mustapha

Dr. Lall

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

10.

Mr. Belgrave
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues
Mr. Nadir
Miss Shadick
Dr. Westford
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffery
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

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The Bill was then read a second time

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2006 was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - JUSTICE PROTECTION BILL 2006 – Bill No.21/2006 published on 2006-04-27

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of a programme for the protection of certain witnesses and other persons; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2006-04-27)

Mr. Ramesh Rajkumar spoke to the motion.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 27 were passed as printed.

The First Schedule

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Insert “Any trafficking in persons offence” as the last offence on the list.”

The first schedule was then passed as amended.

The Second Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Justice Protection Bill 2006, was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTION

ITEM 3 - DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

The Assembly did not proceed with the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Declaration by the Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Guyana on HIV/AIDS Epidemic emanating out of the Workshop on HIV/AIDS for Parliamentarians, and presented to the National Assembly on 6th April, 2006, be adopted.

(Notice paper No. 252 (M111 Opp10) published on 2006-04-06)

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Health moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion to approve the Draft Standing Orders be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 260 (M19 Govt 107) published on 2006-04-28)

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 5 - APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS IN THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Minister of Health moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the national Assembly approves the Draft Standing Orders which are included as APPENDIX 11 in the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 254 (M113 Gov101) published on 2006-04-10)

Mrs. Sheila Holder spoke to the motion.

14.

The Minister of Health moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

Insert the following immediately after the word "Assembly" –
"as amended by the Standing Orders Committee."

Thereafter, the amended motion was then put and carried.


THANKS BY THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

On behalf of Members of Parliament and himself, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs extended best wishes to the Speaker for his guidance and the manner in which he managed the Assembly over the past five years.

He also joined the Speaker in expressing thanks to the staff of the Parliament Office, the Media and the Hansard Reporters for their committed and dedicated service during the past five years.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.58 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

2nd May, 2006