

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 47<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 1.00 P.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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

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

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)

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.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. Bulkan, 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.

Ms Rennita L. Williams, 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 2.04 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**Resignation of Mr. Richard Allen**

The Speaker informed Members that he had received from Mr. Richard Allen a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013, resigning his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date.

With Mr. Allen's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly became vacant.

6.

The vacancy was, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name was to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Allen's name was extracted.

As Mr. Allen's name was extracted from A Partnership For National Unity List of Candidates, the Speaker had, in accordance with section 99A of the said Act, called upon the Representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person, who was willing to become a Member of the National Assembly, to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

#### **OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-**

##### **Ms Rennita Lolita Williams**

The Speaker informed Members that following the resignation of Mr. Richard Allen, and his call upon the Representative of A Partnership For National Unity List of Candidates, the Speaker had been informed that the name of Ms Rennita Lolita Williams was extracted from the list and that Ms Williams was on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

The Speaker stated that before Ms Williams could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, she would have to make and subscribe the oath of office, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution.

As Ms Williams was present, the oath was administered to her by the Clerk.

#### **Congratulations to New Member**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Ms Rennita Lolita Williams on her becoming a Member of the National Assembly. The Speaker also welcomed her to the Assembly and extended best wishes to her.

7.

Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. George Norton, M.P. and the Minister of Foreign Affairs joined the Speaker in extending congratulations and best wishes to Ms Rennita Williams on her appointment as a Member of Parliament.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

#### **Final Rites for Pandat Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R.**

“The Speaker announced that the final rites and cremation of the late former Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud, will take place tomorrow, Thursday, April 11 beginning at 9.00 a.m. The funeral procession will start at the Dharmic Sanskritik Kendra Mandir in Prashad Nagar 9.00 a.m., passing thereafter the Shri Krishna Mandir in Campbellville. It then goes to the Dharmic Rama Krishna Mandir in Barr Street, Kitty and then to Freedom House for a brief tribute at 9.30 a.m. The cortege, I believe, will then continue to the Guyana International Conference Centre in Liliendaal where the official ceremony and viewing of the body will take place at 10.00 a.m. I take it that the actual ceremony will commence sometime thereafter. Final rites and cremation will take place at the Good Hope Crematorium, I believe, at 1.00 p.m.”

### **REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

#### **Strike in Linden by Nurses**

The Speaker informed Members that Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., had contacted him on a matter the Member considered to be of Urgent Public Importance, with respect to a strike by nurses at the Linden Hospital. The Speaker advised Ms Kissoon that the matter did not qualify, therefore, it was disallowed. Notwithstanding, Ms Kissoon was allowed to make a brief statement on the matter.

8.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health was allowed to give an explanation with respect to the strike by the nurses at the Linden Hospital.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

#### **MOTION**

#### **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

The Speaker informed Members that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met that afternoon at 1.30 p.m. and reconsidered the Report of the Sub-Committee and that no changes were made to the said report. The Sub-Committee, therefore, decided to refer the Report back to the House for consideration of the Whole Assembly.

Thereafter, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Majority and Minority Reports (with schedules attached) of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

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

The Report dated 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 (with proposals by the Opposition) was put and carried on the following division:

#### **FOR**

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

#### **AGAINST**

Mr. Jafarally  
Mr. Damon  
Rev. Gilbert  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. Neendkumar  
Mr. Lumumba



Ms Ferguson  
 Mr. Morian  
 Ms Williams  
 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. Chand  
 Bibi Shaddick  
 Mrs. Chandarpal  
 Mr. Nadir  
 Ms Teixeira  
 Bishop Edghill  
 Mr. Whittaker  
 Mr. Baksh  
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai  
 Ms Webster  
 Mr. G. Persaud  
 Ms Manickchand  
 Mr. Benn  
 Dr. Anthony  
 Mr. Ali  
 Dr. Ramsarran  
 Dr. Westford  
 Mr. R. Persaud  
 Dr. Singh  
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
 Mr. Nandlall  
 Dr. Ramsammy  
 Mr. Rohee  
 Mr. Hinds

The Report dated 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 (with proposals by the Government) was put and negatived on the following division:

**AGAINST**

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

**FOR**

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

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

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33

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

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31

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**Assembly resumed**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2.45 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

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

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

**10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.**

