

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 67TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2014) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2014
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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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. Shadick, 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.

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 (Absent – on leave)

****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-Williams, 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.

(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

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (a.g.)

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

2014 Greetings

The Speaker wished Members of Parliament and staff of the Parliament Office a happy 2014.

Leave:

The Speaker informed Members that leave had been granted to:-

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport; and
- Mrs. Deborah Backer, for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

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

Minutes of Proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 19th December, 2013.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (Company) for the year ended 31st December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(ii) The Annual Report of Guyana National Printers Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2012.

(Circulated)

7.

- (iii) The Audited Financial Statements of Linden Electricity Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

- (iv) The Audited Financial Statements of Linden Electricity Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

- (v) The Audited Financial Statements of Linden Electricity Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

- (vi) The Audited Financial Statements of Lethem Power Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (vii) The Audited Financial Statements of Port Kaituma Power and Light Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (viii) Sales Contract No. SA143408 (PETROCARIBE) dated as of January 01, 2013 between PDVSA Petróleo, S.A. and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) to supply the Government of Guyana with crude oil, refined oil products and LPG of up to 5,200 barrels per day on an annual basis.

(Circulated)

8.

- (ix) Agreement dated October 12, 2013 between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to write-off 90 percent of Guyana's total outstanding debt to Bulgaria in the amount of US\$2,903,203.34.

(Circulated)

- (x) Compensation Agreement under the Framework of the PETROCARIBE Energy Cooperation Agreement dated December 12, 2013 between PDVSA Petróleo, S.A. (PDVSA) and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for the cancellation of the oil debt in compensation for the white rice and paddy shipments under the Guyana/Venezuela Rice Trade Agreements in the amount of US\$91,056,290.03.

(Circulated)

- (xi) Loan Contract No. 3106/BL-GY dated December 11, 2013 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$16,920,000.00 for the Environment Sector Strengthening Program.

(Circulated)

- (xii) Amendatory Agreement No. 1929/BL-GY (Amendment No. 2) between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on December 11, 2013 for the Agricultural Export Diversification Programme.

(Circulated)

- (xiii) Report of the Directors of the Dependents' Pension Fund for the year 2010.

(Circulated)

- (xiv) Report of the Directors of the Dependents' Pension Fund for the year 2011.

(Circulated)

9.

(xv) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2012.

(Circulated)

(xvi) Audited Financial Statements of the National Communications Network Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(xvii) Audited Financial Statements of the National Communications Network Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(xviii) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Electricity Corporation Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(xix) Financial Paper No. 4/2013 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,062,179,646 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 2013-11-06 to 2013-12-31.

(Circulated)

(xx) Financial Paper 5/2013 – Supplementary Estimates (Capital) totalling \$412,780,808 for the period ended 2013-12-31.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment:

(i) The Environmental Protection (Wildlife Management and Conservation) Regulations 2013 – No.6 of 2013.

(Circulated)

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10.

- (ii) The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013 – No. 7 of 2013.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. Alleged Police Brutality on one Colwyn Harding

Mr. Winston Felix, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following questions:

“Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this Honourable House a matter which is so gross, perverse, cruel and inhuman, and which should draw condemnation from every member of this National Assembly. It concerns an article published on page 8 of Kaieteur Newspaper of 10th January, 2014, under the caption, ‘Man alleges police brutality, sodomy’ ... mother seeks justice.

In the article, the man, Colwyn Harding alleges, from his hospital bed, that about two weeks ago, while questioning him concerning a matter unrelated to him, the police from Timehri allegedly beat him, then placed a condom on a baton and pushed it up his anus. Despite his injuries, he was detained in the lock-ups at the Police Station for three days before being released, and he independently sought treatment for his injuries at the Georgetown Public Hospital. There he was admitted a patient, has undergone surgery, revealing injuries to his intestines and resulting in the patient’s use of colostomy bags to defecate.

With his discharge being imminent, and the hospital giving notice of its inability to continue providing colostomy bags, could the Hon. Minister advise this National Assembly of:-

- (i) The extent of the injuries suffered by the patient, Colwyn Harding?
- (ii) What is the cost of hospitalisation?
- (iii) What assistance/immediate relief is the Ministry of Health willing to provide this unfortunate citizen?”

/...11

11.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Mr. Winston Felix, M.P., asked the Minister of Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

2. **Training of Personnel in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Guyana Police Force**

Mr. Winston Felix, M.P., asked the Minister of Human Services and Social Security the following question:

“Mr. Speaker, it is also appropriate in the circumstances of this case, to enquire from the Hon. Minister of Human Services and Social Security her intention to secure training for personnel in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Guyana Police Force in Human Rights, particularly as it relates to the treatment of persons taken into police custody and held there until charged or released?”

Thereafter, the Minister of Human Services and Social Security replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **COURSES OF INSTRUCTION ATTENDED BY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS**

Member Asking: Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

12.

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the courses of instruction attended by Foreign Service Officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2012?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister, in so doing, state the institution, title, dates and numbers of students attending each of the courses and the countries in which those courses were conducted?

(Notice Paper No. 265 (Q 174 Opp. 172) published on 2013-11-28)

Answer:

See Appendix I

2. COURSES OF INSTRUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

**Member Asking: Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition**

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the courses of instruction conducted by the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2012?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister, in so doing, state the title, dates and numbers of students attending each of the courses?
- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister also state the names of the Director of Studies and the permanent instructors and lecturers at the institute during this period?

(Notice Paper No. 266 (Q 175 Opp. 173) published on 2013-11-28)

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13.

Answer:

See Appendix II

3. COMMUNITY GROUNDS IN NEW HOUSING SCHEMES ACROSS GUYANA

Member Asking: Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister tell this House the number and location of areas reserved for the establishment of Community Grounds in the Diamond/Grove New Housing Scheme?

- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister also tell this House the number and location of areas reserved for the establishment of Community Grounds in all the other New Housing Schemes across Guyana?

(Notice Paper No. 270 (Q 179 Opp. 177) published on 2013-12-06)

Answer:

See Appendix III

For Oral Replies

4. CLIFF ANDERSON SPORTS HALL

Due to the absence of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, and at the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following questions were deferred:

- (i) *Could the Hon. Minister inform this House whether in addition to sports the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall can also be used to slaughter goats and other meat products?

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14.

- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister inform this House who granted permission for goats to be slaughtered at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall?
- (iii) *What fees are charge to clubs/groups to utilise the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall and what criteria is use to determine those fees?

(Notice Paper No. 268 (Q 177 Opp. 175) published on 2013-11-29)

5. BASKETBALL COURT AT THE GYMNASIUM

Due to the absence of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, and at the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following questions were deferred:

- (i) *Could the Hon. Minister inform this House when would the lights on the basketball court at the Gymnasium be replaced?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister inform this House why and under whose instruction the lights on the basketball court at the Gymnasium were removed?

(Notice Paper No. 269 (Q 178 Opp. 176) published on 2013-11-29)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS BILL 2014 – Bill No. 1/2014

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 provide for the recording of Court Proceedings and for matters incidental thereto.

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15.

2. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014 – Bill No. 3/2014**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councilors of local democratic organs.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 21/2013 published on 2013-12-05

At the request of the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following Bill was withdrawn:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councilors of local democratic organs.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

ITEM 2 - WILDLIFE IMPORT AND EXPORT BILL 2013 –Bill No. 20/2013 published on 2013-11-27

At the request of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

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16.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate international trade of Guyana's wildlife and to enable Guyana to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington, 1973.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

ITEM 3 - EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 23/2013 published on 2013-12-10

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Bibi Shadick

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

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

“Clause 2(a) – substitute for paragraph (d) of the substituted subsection (4) the following as paragraph (d) –

“(d) a certificate issued by the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory and signed by a scientific officer of the Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory.””

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 24/2013 published on 2013-12-10

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

18.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Felix

The Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Mr. Keith Scott

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

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

“Insert the following subsection as subsection (3) –

“(3) A person guilty of an offence under the preceding subsections shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred thousand dollars and five years imprisonment and on conviction on indictment to a fine of five million dollars and ten years imprisonment.””

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 5 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 –
Bill No. 25/2013 published on 2013-12-10**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Home Affairs

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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 Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) (Amendment) Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 6 - GUYANA CRICKET ADMINISTRATION BILL 2012 – Bill No. 31/2012
published on 2012-12-20

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee, was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provisions for the incorporation of autonomous national cricket administrative organizations in Guyana and to provide for other matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-12-20)

Please note that the abovementioned Report was laid in the National Assembly on 7th August, 2013.

ITEM 7 - LAND SURVEYORS (PROFESSION) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 16/2013
published on 2013-06-26

The Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment of a Board of Land Surveyors, the registration and licensing of land surveyors, the regulation of the practice of land surveying and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2013-06-27)

21.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Land Surveyor (Profession) Bill 2013.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Parts I, II and III were passed as printed.

Part IV

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P., moved and Ms Amna Ally, M.P., seconded the following amendments which were put and carried:

“Section 18(4) (i) delete the words ‘without permission from the Commissioner’ and insert the words ‘apply to the Commissioner for permission to’

Insert a subsection (ii) –

The Commissioner, acting on the advice of the professional body representing land surveyors, shall grant or deny such permission; in the event of a denial of permission, the applicant shall be provided with the reason for the decision.”

Part IV was then passed as amended.

Parts V, VI, First, Second and Third Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Land Surveyors (Profession) 2013 was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTION

ITEM 8 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 11 OF 2012

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 11/2012 be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 226 (M 78 Committee 4) published on 2013-07-18)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

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

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS – THIRD READING

ITEM 9 - THE DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 11/2012

published on 2012-07-10

In accordance with Standing Orders No. 58(4), the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012) moved the third reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-07-12)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-08-02)

The Bill was then read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTION

ITEM 10 - Tribute to His Excellency, former President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, architect of the free and democratic South Africa

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the world learnt with sadness, on the 5th December 2013, of the passing of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the first democratically elected President of the post Apartheid South Africa;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has long recognized Nelson Mandela as the genuine and legitimate leader of the South African people, a freedom fighter forced to support armed struggle after years of non-violent struggle against apartheid, the internationally known and loved political prisoner, imprisoned for 27 years for campaigning against the barbarous and iniquitous system of apartheid which pervaded every aspect of life in South Africa;

AND WHEREAS Nelson Mandela (Madiba) became the symbol of the struggle for the abolition of the system of Apartheid in South Africa;

AND WHEREAS his wise leadership upon gaining his freedom, his election as President of the ANC and his subsequent election as President of the Republic of South Africa, the highest position in his land, he demonstrated his commitment to the ANC 1961 Kliptown Declaration of the Congress of the People and the Freedom Charter of a free and democratic South Africa for all of its peoples;

AND WHEREAS Mandela was the architect of crafting of the new South African Constitution founded on a spirit of reconciliation, non retribution and unparalleled magnanimity that conferred new freedom and dignity to the oppressed and the oppressor alike;

AND WHEREAS from the early 1950s Guyana's progressive forces, through the Peoples' Progressive Party and the Peoples' National Congress, were committed to principled and unwavering support for the African National Congress and the abolition of the system of apartheid; and the creation of a free, independent and democratic South Africa;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana, despite the international challenges it faced, was steadfast in its commitment and support for the liberation of South Africa and Southern Africa in general. This was demonstrated significantly through Guyana's contribution of US\$50,000 (United States dollars fifty thousand) annually for the African liberation struggle as well as its agreement for the landing and refueling of Cuban aircraft en route to support the Southern African liberation movements; support for the international boycott of South African goods and sport; and Guyana's severing of sporting contacts with apartheid South Africa;

AND WHEREAS Guyana, in recognition of the African liberation struggle built the African Liberation Monument in the forecourt of the Umana Yana and demonstrated our respect and recognition of the role of Nelson Mandela by naming a section of a major city highway for him;

AND WHEREAS we are proud as Guyanese of our country's, successive governments and civil society's forthright and unwavering stand in support of the international struggle against apartheid and for the freedom of the South African peoples;

AND WHEREAS we recognize the power of the international movement against apartheid which grew from strength to strength isolating the apartheid regime as the pariah of the world and salute the strength and commitment of the South African people over long decades that finally opened the way for Mandela's release, the abolition of apartheid and the birth of the "rainbow" nation;

AND WHEREAS we the members of this National Assembly salute Nelson Mandela, as a dear friend of Guyana, a great humanitarian and an architect of reconciliation and hopefully a new international political culture;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly formally offers its profound condolences to the entire Mandela family and to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa, while at the same time acknowledging the precious heritage which this man of exceptional courage and wisdom bequeathed to all of humanity.

(Notice Paper No. 273 (M 94 Govt 31) published on 2013-12-19)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Public Works

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 9.50 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude the debate on the motion.

The Minister of Public Works continued and concluded his speech.

While Mr. Moses Nagamootoo was speaking to the motion the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber.

Presiding by Bibi Shadick, M.P.

At 10.05 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Bibi Shadick, M.P., took the Chair.

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo continued and concluded his speech.

The Minister of Home Affairs also spoke to the motion.

Return to Chamber

At 11.20 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Ms Annette Ferguson

Mr. Neendkumar

Ms Gail Teixeira

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1.02 a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 23rd January, 2014.

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

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16th January, 2014.