

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 73RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2014) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 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

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. 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)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

***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), Deputy Speaker
of the National Assembly

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

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

****Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

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

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkan, 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.

Dr. Karen Cummings, 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.

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

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

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

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

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

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

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

Ms Rennita L. Williams, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

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(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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARAMAKATOI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Member Asking: Mrs. June Marcello, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House why construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School, Region 8 that started in April, 2012, has not been completed?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House when construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School would be completed?

(Notice Paper No. 293 (Q 195 Opp. 193) published on 2014-02-13)

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting, as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

2. **PLAYGROUND LOCATED AT LOT 142 DURBANA SQUARE, LAMAHA GARDENS**

Member Asking: Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

The playground located at lot 142 Durbana Square, Lamaha Gardens and owned by the Civil Service Cooperative Housing Society by virtue of transport was illegally sold. The residents of Lamaha Gardens protested to the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the sale of their playground to Mr. Terrence Taljit.

7.

In March, 2013, the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security requested the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs to take steps to have the transport issued to Mr. Terrence Taljit be rescinded on grounds of fraud. On 12th July, 2013, the Ministry of Labour Human Services and Social Security informed the Society that the earlier award of the Registration of the Civil Service Cooperative Housing Society had been rescinded and that irregularities which had been uncovered led to the dismissal of the Chief Cooperative Development Officer.

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House, why criminal charges have never been laid against persons involved in the illegal sale of lot 142 Durbana Square?
- (ii) What steps have been taken to ensure that such predatory behaviour is not provided protection by the State and its Agencies?
- (iii) Is Mr. Terrence Taljit currently employed by or working for the Government of Guyana in any capacity?

(Notice Paper No. 299 (Q 201 Opp. 199) published on 2014-02-25)

Answers:

- (i) “The sale of 142 Durbana Square, Lamaha Gardens does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Central Housing and Planning Authority. The said land was privately owned by the Co-op (Civil Service Cooperative Housing Society).

As outlined, this matter does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Housing and Planning Authority

- (ii) When Central Housing and Planning Authority becomes aware of any fraudulent practices pertaining to illegal sale of house lots in our housing schemes, the following actions are taken:-

8.

- (a) Notify the Public of the fraudulent practice by certain individuals. The Hon. Minister would engage the media (both television and the newspapers) advising the public to beware of the fraudsters. Notices are also placed in the newspapers warning the public not to enter into transactions outside of the Ministry.
 - (b) Pictures of the fraudsters are placed in prominent places around the Ministry.
 - (c) An investigation is carried out by the Enforcement Unit of the Authority.
 - (d) The file from the investigation by the Enforcement Unit is forwarded to the Guyana Police Force for their action.
 - (e) If a charge is instituted and the matter proceeds to Court, the Officers of the Authority would assist in giving evidence in the Magistrates' Court as per request.
- (iii) No person by the name of Terrence Taljit was ever employed by any Department or Unit within the Central Housing and Planning Authority.”

3. CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARASAWA HEALTH POST IN REGION 8

Member Asking: Mrs. June Marcello, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister explain why three (3) years after the commencement of construction, the Arasawa Health Post in Region 8 has not been completed?

9.

(ii) Could the Hon. Minister say when construction of the Arasawa Health Post will be completed?

(Notice Paper No. 291 (Q 193 Opp. 191) published on 2014-03-11)

Answers:

“The construction of the Arasowa Health Post was a Capital Project on which work commenced in the year 2010. Below are details of the Project:

Name of Contractor:	Troy Dainty
Year executed:	2010
Building Type:	Concrete
Building Size:	30ft. x 18ft.
Status:	Incomplete
Percentage completed:	50%

The contractor has failed to complete this project. Legal advice has been sought by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development on the matter. The Regional Democratic Council, Region 8, expects to complete under its 2014 Current Work Programme.”

4. **CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOUNTAIN FOOT HEALTH POST IN REGION 8**

Member Asking: Mrs. June Marcello, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

(i) Could the Hon. Minister explain why construction of the Mountain Foot Health Post in Region 8 that started in April, 2012, has not been completed?

10.

- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say when the construction of the Mountain Foot Health Post will be completed?

(Notice Paper No. 292 (Q 194 Opp. 192) published on 2014-03-11)

Answers:

“This is a Basic Needs Trust Fund Project. BNTF did not advise that the contract was terminated. BNTF did experienced difficulty in securing additional funding for its completion. Having secured same, the contract for the completion of the Project was rewarded to Vishal Contracting Service.

Works are scheduled to recommence on the 25th April, 2014, with a five (5) week duration for completion.”

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT’S BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2014 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2014

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2014.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2014-03-24)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

The Minister of Labour

Mr. Christopher Jones

11.

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Trevor Williams

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.04 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.02 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Desmond Trotman

The Minister of the Public Service

Mr. Winston Felix

Bibi Safora Shaddick

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.46 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2014.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

1st April, 2014.

