

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2015)
OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION
HELD ON FRIDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2015
AT 2.12 P.M.**

**IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, GROUND FLOOR, WEST OF THE MAIN STAIRWAY,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

Chairman

Hon. Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, C.C.H., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.,
Vice President and Minister of Public Security

Hon. Amna Ally, M.P.,
Minister of Social Cohesion and Government Chief Whip

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.,
Minister of Social Protection

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.,
Minister of Public Infrastructure

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P., - Excused
Minister of Tourism

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP) (4)

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip, - Excused

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P.

Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P.

Officers

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs	-	Clerk of the National Assembly
Ms. Debra H. Cadogan	-	Head of Committees Division
Mr. Nickalai Pryce	-	Clerk of Committees
Ms. Jessica Small	-	Assistant Clerk of Committees

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Keshanna Muredhar	-	Assistant Clerk of Committees
Mr. Rickey Hardeen	-	Assistant Clerk of Committees

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 2.12 p.m.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was convened for the purpose of nominating Members to the following Committees of the National Assembly:

- Parliamentary Management Committee
- Public Accounts Committee
- Constitution Reform Committee
- Committee on Appointments
- Parliamentary Oversight Committee on the Security Sector
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources
- Standing Orders Committee
- Assembly Committee
- Committee of Privileges;
- Statutory Instrument Committee

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.,
First Vice-President and Prime Minister
- Hon. Basil Williams, M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- Hon. Amna Ally, M.P.,
Minister of Social Cohesion and Government Chief Whip
- Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.,
Minister of State
- Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Governance

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,
- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.,
- Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.,
- Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.,
- Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.,
Minister of Social Protection
- Mr. Jermaine Figuera, M.P.,
- Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.,
- Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P.,
- Ms. Valarie Patterson, M.P.

At this point, Bishop Edghill informed the Committee that a sitting Minister of Government was nominated by the Hon. Amna Ally, which was not in keeping with the practise and the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee.

Based on an inquiry by Ms. Ally as to the law that stipulates that a Minister cannot sit on the PAC, Bishop Edghill highlighted Article 119B of the Constitution and Standing Order 86 (5) which state that:

Article 119B:

“There shall be parliamentary sectoral committee established by the National Assembly with responsibility for the scrutiny of all of Government policy and administration including-

- i. natural resources*
- ii. economic services*
- iii. foreign relations*
- iv. social services ”*

Standing Order 86 (5):

“Sectoral Committees shall have the authority to:-

- (a) determine areas of Government activity for scrutiny or specific examination;
- (b) request the Minister assigned responsibilities for the sector to submit written or oral information, including government documents and records about any specific area of government policy and administration;
- (c) review existing legislation on government policy administration for any of the sector;
- (d) summon persons to give evidence in accordance with the Legislative Bodies (Evidence) Act Chapter 1:08 of the Laws of Guyana;
- (e) scrutinize government documents, papers and records;
- (f) visit any government activity or project in Guyana as agreed and arranged by the Sectoral Committee;
- (g) in the discharge of their mandate, utilize the services of experts, specialists and other sources of advice as the Committees may determine;
- (h) establish a timetable for the conduct of their work;
- (i) make recommendations to the Assembly on legislation or any other action to be taken on matters falling within their purview; and
- (j) submit periodic reports to the National Assembly on their work.”

Ms Ally informed the Committee that neither article 119B of the Constitution nor Standing

Order 86 (5) prohibits a Minister from becoming a Member of the Public Accounts Committee. She reminded Members that the Public Accounts Committee would be chaired by a Member of the Opposition and the Minister nominated to sit on the Committee was not assigned to the Ministry of Finance.

Bishop Edghill explained that while the Constitution and Standing Orders did not state that the Minister should not sit on the Public Accounts Committee and Sectoral Committees, it was improper for a Minister to participate in discussions relating to the scrutiny of agencies when Ministers are part of the Executive.

He reiterated that it had always been the practice that Ministers were not nominated to those Committees because of its oversight functions and scope of activities. He suggested that a research be conducted to determine what obtains in the Caribbean and the Commonwealth.

Ms Ally pointed out that in the examination of the public accounts of the various agencies, the Permanent Secretary who is the Accounting Officer would be summoned to the meeting of the Committee and not the Minister.

Hon Khemraj Ramjattan explained that there are Commonwealth jurisdictions which have Ministers sitting on the Public Accounts Committee, such as Canada, which has the Finance Minister presiding as the Chairperson of that Committee.

A discussion ensued as to whether Ministers should be allowed to sit on the Public Accounts Committee and the Sectoral Committees. Some of the salient views expressed were:

- (1) the Public Accounts Committee would be examining the public accounts of the previous Administration;
- (2) whether the Committee system should be stymied because Ministers were being nominated to Committees with oversight functions; and
- (3) the Opposition were in fact scrutinising its own public accounts

The Chairperson enquired whether the issue of Ministers sitting on Committees was not raised before since they were adequate Members to participate in the work of "oversight" Committees and whether Members were now required to address in a mature manner the issue of Ministers being on those Committees. He urged Members not to disregard the reality of what was available but rather to confront same. The Minister could reclude himself/herself from the meeting when his/her respective Ministry would have to appear before the Public Accounts Committee.

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.,
- Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.,
- Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.
- Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

Some Members noted that the Members of the Opposition comprised former Ministers and a former Accounting Officer.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSTITUTION REFORM COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.,
Vice-President and Minister of Public Security
- Hon. Basil Williams, M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.,
Minister of Education

- Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Governance
- Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Education

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.,
- Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P.,
- Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.,
- Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF APPOINTMENTS

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Amna Ally, M.P.,
Minister of Social Cohesion and Government Chief Whip
- Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.,
Minister of Public Health
- Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.,
Minister of Public Infrastructure
- Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P.,
Minister of Tourism
- Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,
- Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.,
- Dr. Clive R. Jagan, M.P.,
- Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE SECURITY SECTOR

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P.,
Minister of Citizenship
- Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. Keith Scott, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Communities
- Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
- Mr. Hemraj Rajkumar, M.P.

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P, seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P, the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.,
- Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P.,
- Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P.,
- Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.,
Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Finance
- Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection
- Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Alternate)

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a Proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P, seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P, the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.,
- Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.,
- Mr. Komal Chand, J.P., C.C.H., M.P.,
- Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Alternate)

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Governance
- Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
- Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Public Health
- Mr. John Adams, M.P.,
- Ms. Valarie Patterson, M.P. (Alternate)

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.,
- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.,
- Mr. Alistair S. Charlie M.P.,
- Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Alternate)

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.,
Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
- Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.,
Minister of Social Protection
- Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P.,
Minister of Business
- Mr. Hemraj Rajkumar, M.P.,
- Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Alternate)

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a Proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P, seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P, the following Members were nominated:

- Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,
- Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.,
- Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.,
- Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Alternate)

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.,
Minister of State
- Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.,
Minister of Communities and
- Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P.,
Minister of Finance
- Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.,
- Mr. Jermaine Figuera, M.P. (Alternate)

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.,
- Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.,
- Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P.,
- Mrs. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P. (Alternate)

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.,
Vice-President and Minister of Public Security
- Hon. Basil Williams, M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- Hon. Amna Ally, M.P.,
Minister of Social Cohesion and Government Chief Whip
- Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.,
Minister of Communities
- Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Public Health

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P, seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P, the following Members were nominated:

- Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,
- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.,
- Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.,
- Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change APNU/AFC

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection
- Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.,
- Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P.,
- Mr. Richard Allen, M.P.,
- Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P.

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.,
- Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P.,
- Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.,
- Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.,
Vice-President and Minister of Public Security
- Hon. Basil Williams, M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.,
Minister of State
- Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.,
Minister of Communities
- Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P.

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a Proposal by Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.P, seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P, the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.,
- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.,
- Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P.,
- Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS COMMITTEE

From A Partnership for National Unity / Alliance for Change (APNU/AFC)

On a proposal by the Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., seconded by the Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Governance
- Hon. Keith Scott, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Communities
- Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P.,
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- Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P.,
-
- Ms. Valarie Patterson, M.P.

From the People's Progressive Party (PPP)

On a proposal by Ms. Gillian R. Persaud, M.P., seconded by Mr. Needkumar, J.P., M.P., the following Members were nominated:

- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.,
- Mrs. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P.,
- Mr. Charles S. Ramson, M.P.,
- Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed Members that a meeting would be convened on Monday, 7th September, 2015 at 2 p.m. for the election of Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons.

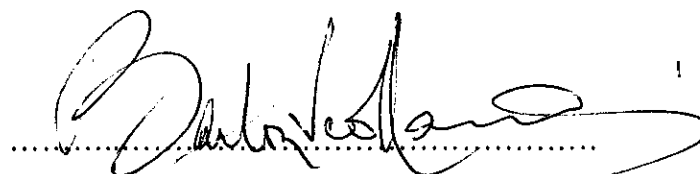
Bishop Edghill informed the Committee that the proposed date was not convenient for the Members of the Opposition.

After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the meeting to elect Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the various Committees would be held on Wednesday, 9th September, 2015 in the Parliament Chamber during the suspension of the National Assembly for refreshments.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting was terminated at 3.30 p.m.

Confirmed this ~~22~~²²nd day of October, 2015



Hon. Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, C.C.H., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

Chairman of the Committee of Selection