

# National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

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91ST SITTING

2.12 PM

Thursday, 6 April 2006

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## *MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)*

### *Speaker (1)*

**The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S. C., M. P. - *Speaker of the National Assembly***

### **Members of the Government (38)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)**

**(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. Rohce, M.P.

*-Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (Absent)*

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 (Absent)*

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*

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P.

*-Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock (Region No. 5-Mahaica/Berbice)*

\*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.

*-Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent)*

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- \*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 (Absent)*
- 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. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. - *(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*
- Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.
- Mr Husman Alli, 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)*
- Mrs Shirley V. Edwards, J.P. M.P.
- Mr Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. - *(Region No. 2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)*
- Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. - *(Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Coventryne)*
- Dr Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.
- 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)*
- 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/ Coventryne)*

\* *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.       | - (Absent on Leave)                                    |
| Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. |  |
| Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.         | - <i>Deputy Speaker of the N.A</i>                     |
| Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.         | - <i>Chief Whip</i>                                    |
| Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.                | - <i>(Region No.2-Pomeroon/Supenaam) (AOL)</i>         |
| Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.        |  |
| Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.       |  |
| Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.           | - (Absent)   |
| Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P.      | - <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)</i>       |
| Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.            |  |
| Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.        |  |
| Dr Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.      |  |
| Miss Anna Ally, M.P.                | - <i>(Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice) (AOL)</i>           |
| Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P.          | - <i>(Region No.10-Upper Demerara Berbice)</i>         |
| Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.               | - (Absent on Leave)                                    |
| Dr George A. Norton, M.P.           |  |
| Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, M.P.     | - <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (AOL)</i>          |
| Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P.       | - <i>(Region No.3-Essequibo Islands West Demerara)</i> |
| Dr Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.           |  |
| Mr Joseph Hamilton, M.P.            |  |
| Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P.          | - <i>(Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice)</i>         |
| Mr Ricky Khan, M.P.                 | - <i>(Region No.1-Barima/Waini)</i>                    |
| Mr Dave Danny, M.P.                 | - <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)</i>       |
| Mrs. R. Bancroft, M.P.              | - <i>(Region No.8- Potaro/Siparuni)</i>                |
| Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P.           | - <i>(Region No.6-East Berbice/Corentyne)</i>          |
| Miss Judith David, M.P.             | - <i>(Region No.7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni)</i>                 |
| Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P.          | - <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>                |

### (ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance Party (2)

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mrs Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.  |   |
| Mrs Shirley J. Melville, M.P. | - <i>(Region No.9-Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)</i> |

### (iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P. *(Absent)*

## OFFICERS

*Mr Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly*

*Mrs Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly*

Thursday, 6 April 2006

## PRAYERS

**The Clerk reads the Prayer**

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

1. *By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):*
  - (i) Minutes of Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Selection, which was held on Thursday, 16 March 2006
  - (ii) Report of Workshop on HIV/AIDS for Parliamentarians, sponsored by the National Assembly and the United Nations Population Fund.
  - (iii) Declaration by the Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Guyana on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic emanating out of the Workshop on HIV/Aids for Parliamentarians.

Thursday, 6 April 2006

2. By the *Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Competition and Fair Trading Bill 2005)*:
  - (i) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Competition and Fair Trading Bill 2005- Bill No. 18/2005.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Tourism Authority for the year 2005.
  - (iii) The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Annual Report for the year 2003.
  - (iv) The Guyana national Bureau of Standards Annual report for the year 2005.
  
3. By the *Minister of Home Affairs (Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions)*:

The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission.

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4. By the *Minister of Local Government and Regional Development (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 2005 – Bill No. 9/2005*

The Report of the Special Select Committee of the National Assembly on the Municipal and District Council (Amendment) Bill 2005 –Bill No. 9/2005.

5. By the *Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*:
  - (i) The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health Annual Report for the year 2004.
  - (ii) The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee Annual Review for 2004.

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

**Suspension of Standing Order Nos. 46(2) and 46(3)**

Thursday, 6 April 2006

*BE IT RESOLVED:*

*That Standing Order Nos. 46(2) and 46(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday 6 April 2006, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill.*

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence to withdraw the Motion standing in my name. The Opposition has represented to the Government and to the Attorney General that they have some concerns about the Bill. We feel those concerns should be addressed adequately and therefore it became necessary to ask that this Motion be withdrawn. We will just introduce the Bill today for its first reading and defer it for Monday coming, at 2 o'clock.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Member

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### **Presentation and First Readings**

Honourable Minister of Finance, there is an Income Tax (Amendment) Bill at No. 11.

1. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL - Bill No. 17/2006**

Thursday, 6 April 2006

*By the Minister of Housing and Water on behalf of the Minister of Finance*

2. **ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 7/2006**

*By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*

3. **SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 8/2006**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

4. **PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 9/2006**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

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5. **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 10/2006**



*Thursday, 6 April 2006*

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

6. **LICENSED PREMISES (AMNEDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 11/2006**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

7. **LABOUR (CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 12/2006**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

8. **LABOUR (AMNEDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 13/2006.**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

9. **HOLIDAYS WITH PAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 14/2006**

*Thursday, 6 April 2006*

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

10. **EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 15/2006.**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

11. **TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 Bill - No. 16/2006.**

*By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security*

12. **CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL 2006 Bill - No. 18/2006.**

*By the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce*

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**BILLS - Second Reading**

*Thursday, 6 April 2006*

1. **ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 7/2006**

A Bill intituled, an Act to amend the Representation of the People Act and Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000.

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, I ask that this Bill be deferred to Monday.

**Put and agreed to.**

**Bill Deferred.**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, that brings us to the end of our business for today.

Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, I wish to move that the National Assembly be adjourned to Monday.

**The Speaker:** The Assembly is so adjourned.

*Adjourned Accordingly at 14:40h*

*Thursday, 6 April 2006*