

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2006) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government (42)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)

(ii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),
Minister of Public Works and Communications (Absent – Performing the functions of the
Office of President)

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P., (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequiibo),
Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

***Non-elected Minister**

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of
Legal Affairs (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Mr. Albert Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent – on leave)

***Non-Elected Minister**

****Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieria, M.P.

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***Non-elected Member

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Mr. Dave D. Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

Mr. Ernest B. Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No.7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

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

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

(ii) Alliance For Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Ms Chantalle L. Smith, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Mrs. Lilawttie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.04 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the President had, on the 12th October, 2006, appointed Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai and Mr. Steve Paul Ninvalle to be Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mrs. Sukhai and Mr. Ninvalle were appointed non-elected Members of the National Assembly, but by virtue of holding the Office of Parliamentary Secretary, they had become Members of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 105 of the Constitution.

Before Mrs. Sukhai and Mr. Ninvalle could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, they would have to make and subscribe the oath of office, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution.

Mrs. Sukhai and Mr. Ninvalle made and subscribed the oath which was administered to them by the Clerk.

Ms Gail Teixeira, who was absent from the first sitting of the Ninth Parliament, made and subscribed the oath which was administered to her by the Clerk.

The oath was also administered to the following twenty two (22) Members of the People's National Congress Reform – One Guyana who became Members of the National Assembly, following the General and Regional Elections on 28th August, 2006:

Declared Elected on 28th September, 2006

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin

Mr. Winston S. Murray

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer

Mr. Anthony Viera

Mr. Basil Williams

Dr. George A. Norton

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence

Mr. Keith Scott

Miss Amna Ally

Mr. James McAllister

Mr. Dave D. Danny

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton

Mr. Ernest B. Elliot

Mrs. Judith David-Blair

Mr. Mervyn Williams

Ms Africo Selman

Dr. John Austin
 Ms Jennifer Wade
 Ms Vanessa Kissoon
 Mr. Desmond Fernandes

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Congratulations to Parliamentary Secretaries, Ms Teixeira and Members of the People's National Congress Reform – One Guyana**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, welcomed the three (3) Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic and the twenty two (22) Members of the People's National Congress Reform – One Guyana to the Assembly and extended best wishes to them.

(ii) **Appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the President had appointed –

(a) On the 28th September, 2006, Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury as a Parliamentary Secretary to assist the Minister of Housing and Water in the discharge of his functions; and

(b) On the 12th October, 2006, Mrs. Pauline Sukhai and Mr. Steve Paul Ninvalle, as Parliamentary Secretaries, to assist the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, respectively, in the discharge of their functions.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) **By the Minister of Finance:**

- (i) (a) Debt Relief Agreement No. 1058H under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Relief Initiative between the Government of Guyana and the OPEC Fund for International Development signed on December 21, 2005 for a total debt relief of approximately US\$5,400,000 in end – 1998 Present Value (PV) terms.

(Circulated)

- (b) Enhanced HIPC Debt Initiative Relief Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the OPEC Fund for International Development dated October 6, 2005 for a total debt relief of approximately US\$2,510,000 in end – 1998 Present Value (PV) terms.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Treasury Memorandum Pursuant to Resolution No. 100/2006 dated 2006-03-16 of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for 2000/2001.

(Circulated)

- (2) The Minister of Health on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, presented the Annual Report of the Supreme Court Registry for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Education:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

- (4) The Minister of Health on behalf of the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, presented the Annual Report of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2007 BILL 2006 – Bill No. 22/2006

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the fulfillment of Guyana's commitment to the efficient and effective staging of ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 and for related purposes.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTIONS****ITEM - 1 APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President, Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, for his Address to the National Assembly which was made on the occasion of the Ceremonial Opening of the First Session of the Ninth Parliament of Guyana on Thursday, 28th September, 2006, and approves of the policy adumbrated therein.

(Notice Paper No. 1 (M1 Govt 1) published on 2006-10-19)

Mr. Robert Corbin spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.53 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Election of and Congratulations to Leader of the Opposition

The Speaker stated for the record of the National Assembly, that, at a meeting which was held under his Chairmanship, during the suspension of the sitting for refreshments, the Non-Governmental Members of the National Assembly, in pursuant of Article 184 of the Constitution, as repealed and re-enacted by Section 6 of the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), elected Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P., to be the Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Corbin.

The Minister of Home Affairs joined the Speaker in extending congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Corbin.

Resumption on Motion for approval of Government's Policy in President's Address

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Health

Mr. Raphael Trotman

While Ms Gail Teixeira was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Ms Gail Teixeira continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

The Minister of Agriculture

Ms Africo Selman

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

and

Mr. Everall Franklin

ITEM 2 - NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Assembly deferred the nomination of Members of the Committee of Selection.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.48 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 2nd November, 2006.



HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

30th October, 2006