

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 6TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2006) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 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),
Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

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 Essequibo),
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., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), 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

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.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

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)

***Non-Elected Minister**

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

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. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

***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 (Absent)

***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 (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Anna 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. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

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 2.12 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Visit of Delegation from the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Speaker informed Members that a Parliamentary Delegation from the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would be visiting the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from January 7 to 13, 2007.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

1. By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):
Minutes of Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Selection which was held on Thursday, 14th December, 2006.

(Circulated)

2. By the Minister of Finance:

(i) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2006 – No. 24 of 2006.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2006 – No. 25 of 2006.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) (Amendment) Order 2006 – No. 26 of 2006.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

1. Mr. David Patterson, M.P., asked the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics the following question:

Can the Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics say what provisions are in place to ensure that the outstanding works on the East Bank Four Lane Highway be completed, in light of the fact that the defects liability period of the Contract expires on December 31, 2006?

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., also asked the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics a supplementary question.

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

2. Mr. David Patterson, M.P., asked the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications the following question:

Can the Hon. Prime Minister say if all the necessary emergency spares are in place for the Christmas Season for all GPL generating plants at Versailles and Garden of Eden?

The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE –**

The announced sale of IAM Gold of its 70% Shares in Omai Bauxite Operations

A request by Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a matter concerning the announced sale by IAM Gold of its 70% Shares in Omai Bauxite operations to the Chinese Company BOSAI Mineral Group Company Limited, was disallowed by the Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Introduction and First Readings

1. **OLD METAL DEALERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 27/2006**

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Old Metal Dealers Act
(Chapter 91:08).

2. **RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 28/2006**

The Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Factories Act 1998 and repeal the Rice (Regulation of Manufacturing and Marketing) Act 1985.

3. **HEALTH FACILITIES LICENSING BILL 2006 – Bill No. 29/2006**

The Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the licensing of Health Facilities and for related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****BILLS – Second Readings****ITEM 1 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 24/2006 published on 2006-11-28**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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 2006-12-07)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. David Patterson

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mr. Robert Corbin

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 2006 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 25/2006 published on 2006-12-01

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act
(Read a first time on 2006-12-07)

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

The following amendments, which were moved by Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., and seconded by Mr. James McAllister, M.P., were put and negatived:

Page 626 - Item 4:

- Line 5 -immediately after the word “guidelines” add the words “in the Official Gazette.”
- Line 8 - immediately after the words “registered under the” and before the word “Consumption” insert the words “Value Added Tax Act 2005.”
- Line 9 - delete the word “and” and substitute for it the word “or”

Page 627 - Item 9(4):

Line 4 -immediately after the word "Government" add the words "in the Official Gazette"

Item 11:

Line 4 - delete the words "published guidelines" and substitute for them the following words "guidelines published in the Official Gazette"

Page 637 - Item 44(i):

delete the word "or" and substitute for it the word "and"

Item 44(ii):

delete the word "or" and substitute for it the word "and"

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

The Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Customs (Amendment) Bill 2006 was read a third time and passed as printed.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

The Speaker extended Christmas and New Year's greetings to Members of the National Assembly and their families, the Press and Staff of the Parliament Office.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., on behalf of their respective Parties, also extended Christmas and New Year's greetings to the Speaker, other Members of the National Assembly, the Press and the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.56 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 11th January, 2007.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

21st December, 2006.