

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 8TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2006) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2007
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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

*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 (Absent – on leave)

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.

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

***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 performing duties of 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 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. (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)

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 2.03 p.m.

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

Application of the Value-Added Tax (VAT)

A request by Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a matter concerning the application of the Value-Added Tax (VAT), was disallowed by the Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The Acting Speaker informed the Assembly that the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., had proceeded on leave for approximately six (6) weeks to undergo vitreo retina (eye) surgery overseas.

The Acting Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and herself, wished the Honourable Speaker successful treatment and a speedy recovery.

She also informed the Assembly that during his absence she would be acting as Speaker and would be looking for the cooperation and support of Members of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

VALUE -ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007- Bill No. 3/2007

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Value-Added Tax Act 2005.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/2006

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/2006 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,721,362,439 for the period 2006-11-18 to 2006-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 43 (M13 Govt 9) published on 2007-01-12)

(Paper presented on 2007-01-11)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/2006 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,721,362,439 for the period 2006-11-18 to 2006-12-31.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 6/2006

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the following motion:

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/2006 - Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$999,873,230 for the period ending 2006-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 44 (M 14 Govt 10) published on 2007-01-12)

(Paper presented on 2007-01-11)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/2006 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$999,873,230 for the period ending 2006-12-31.

BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 3 FOR 2006) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 2/2007

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3 of 2006) Bill No. 2 of 2007 to be introduced at this stage.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3 for 2007) Bill No. 2 of 2007 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on motions by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2006, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 4 - PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL
2007 – Bill No. 1/2007 published on 2007-01-05

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture the following Bill was withdrawn:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000.

(Read a first time on 2007-01-11)

ITEM 5 - GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 30/2006
published on 2006-12-28

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Gambling Prevention Act.

(Read a first time on 2007-01-11)

While the Minister of Home Affairs was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.47 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 54(1) (a)

At 4.48 p.m., a request by the Minister of Home Affairs to move a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 54 (1) (a) to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Friday, 19th January, 2007 with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Value-Added Tax (Amendment) Bill 2007 – Bill No. 3 of 2007 was disallowed by the acting Speaker.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Resumption of debate on the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2006.

The Minister of Home Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

While Mr. Raphael Trotman 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 8.05 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 8.05 p.m. a request by the Minister of Home Affairs to obtain the leave of the acting Speaker to move a motion for the suspension of Standing Order 10(1) for the Assembly to continue the debate on the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2006 uninterrupted until its conclusion was disallowed.

The following Members spoke to the request:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Bernard DeSantos

Mr. Raphael Trotman

The Minister of Labour

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 8.30 p.m., the sitting was suspended to facilitate the Government's Chief Whip and the Opposition's Chief Whip to decide on a time for the adjournment of the Assembly.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.47 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Resumption of debate on the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2006.

Mr. Raphael Trotman continued his speech.

EXTENSION OF TIME

A motion by Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., for Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to be granted an extension of time of fifteen (15) minutes to continue his speech was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Franklin
 Mr. Patterson
 Ms Smith
 Mrs. Holder
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Fernandes
 Ms Kissoon
 Ms Wade
 Dr. Austin
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Williams
 Mrs. David-Blair
 Mr. Elliot
 Mr. Norton
 Mr. Danny
 Mr. McAllister
 Miss Ally
 Mrs. Scott
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Dr. Norton
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Vieira
 Mrs. Backer
 Mr. Murray
 Mr. Corbin

AGAINST

Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Mr. P. Persaud
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Khan
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Atkinson
 Mr. Ali
 Ms Shadick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nokta
 Ms Teixeira
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Prashad
 Ms Webster
 Dr. Ramsaran
 Dr. Fox
 Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Lall
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. Nawbatt

Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett

Dr. Ramsammy

Dr. Jeffrey

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Rohee

 26

 34

EXTENSION OF TIME

A motion by Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., for Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to be granted an extension of time of twelve (12) minutes to conclude his speech was put and negated on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Franklin
 Mr. Patterson
 Ms Smith
 Mrs. Holder
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Fernandes
 Ms Kissoon
 Ms Wade
 Dr. Austin
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Williams
 Mrs. David-Blair
 Mr. Elliot

AGAINST

Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Mr. P. Persaud
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Khan
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Atkinson
 Mr. Ali
 Ms Shadick

**DECLINED
TO VOTE**

Mr. DeSantos

Mr. Norton
 Mr. Danny
 Mr. McAllister
 Miss Ally
 Mrs. Scott
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Dr. Norton
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Vieira
 Mrs. Backer
 Mr. Murray
 Mr. Corbin

Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nokta
 Ms Teixeira
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Prashad

 Ms Webster
 Dr. Ramsaran
 Dr. Fox
 Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Lall
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. Nawbatt
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Dr. Jeffrey
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Rohee

 26

 33

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EXTENSION OF TIME

A motion by Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., for Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to be granted an extension of time of ten (10) minutes to conclude his speech was put and carried.

Mr. Raphael Trotman continued and concluded his speech.

The Minister of Labour also spoke the motion.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 10.00 p.m., another request by the Home Affairs to obtain the leave of the acting Speaker to move a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1) for the Assembly to continue the debate on the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2006 uninterrupted until its conclusion, was disallowed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.03 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 22nd January, 2007.


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MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.

Acting Speaker of the National Assembly

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

19th January, 2007.