

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 20TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 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 – performing the functions
of Office of the 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 (Absent)

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)

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. B.H. Robeson 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 (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

***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. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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. Lilawattie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.50 p.m.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

Unreasonable and unconscionable dislocation of Vendors in the Stabroek Market Area

A request by Mr. Robert Corbin to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the unreasonable and unconscionable dislocation of vendors in the Stabroek Market area was negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Franklin

Mrs. Holder

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Fernandes

Ms Kissoon

Ms Wade

AGAINST

Mr. Whittaker

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Mr. Parmanand Persaud

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Nandlall

Mr. Nagamootoo

Ms Selman
Mr. Mervyn Williams
Mrs. David-Blair
Mr. Elliot
Mr. Danny
Mr. Scott
Mrs. Lawrence
Dr. Norton
Mr. Basil Williams
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

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Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Khan
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Chand
Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Ali
Ms Shadick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nokta
Ms Teixeira
Ms Webster
Dr. Fox
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Benn
Mr. Lall
Dr. Westford
Mr. Robert Persaud
Mr. Nawbatt
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Rohee

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Notwithstanding the result of the division claimed, eighteen elected Members rose in their places and supported the request in accordance with Standing Order No. 12(3)(b). Thereafter, the motion was allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over to 4.30 p.m.

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

(1) SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 28(1)

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS it is provided by Standing Order No. 28(1) that a Government motion shall not be placed upon the Order Paper for a day earlier than seven (7) days from the day on which the notice was given to the Clerk;

AND WHEREAS a notice of a motion has been given this day, Tuesday, 20th February, 2007 to be moved on Tuesday, 20th February, 2007, for the suspension of Standing Order No. 54 (1) to enable the Assembly to proceed with the second and third readings of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2007 – Bill No. 10 of 2007.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 28 (1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the motion to suspend Standing Order No. 54(1).

(Notice Paper No. 119 (M26 Govt 18) published on 2007-02-20)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

(2) **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 54**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 54 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Tuesday, 20th February, 2007, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2007 – Bill No. 10 of 2007.

(Notice Paper No.120 (M27 Govt19) published on 2007-02-20)

The motion was then put and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 10/2007 published on 2007-02-02

The Minister 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 Income Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTION****ITEM 1 - BUDGET SPEECH 2007 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2007**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2007-02-02)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

03 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

031 Ministry Administration

032 Government Accounting Administration

03 – Ministry of Finance– Capital Expenditure

48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

481 Ministry Administration

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

48 – Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security– Capital Expenditure

52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

521 Main Office

522 Ministry Administration

523 Attorney General's Chambers

524 Office of the State Solicitor

525 Deeds Registry

52 – Ministry of Legal Affairs– Capital Expenditure

55 - SUPREME COURT

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

552 Magistrates' Department

55 - Supreme Court- Capital Expenditure

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

561 Public Prosecutions

56 - Director of Public Prosecutions- Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.00p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.47p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

Unreasonable and unconscionable dislocation of Vendors in the Stabroek Market Area

In accordance with the permission granted earlier to Mr. Corbin to move the adjournment of the Assembly on a definite matter of urgent public importance, the Minister of Home Affairs informed the Assembly that the matter was under adjudication by a Court of Law. The Speaker therefore, in accordance with Standing Order No. 26(g), ruled that the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly was inadmissible.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

141 Public Service Management

14 – Public Service Ministry– Capital Expenditure

23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

231 Main Office

232 Ministry Administration

233 Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs

23 – Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce– Capital Expenditure

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

161 Amerindian Development

16 – Ministry of Amerindian Affairs– Capital Expenditure

46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION

461 Public Hospital

46 – Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation– Capital Expenditure

47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

471 Ministry Administration

472 Disease Control

473 Primary Health Care Services

474 Regional and Clinical Services

475 Health Sciences Education

476 Standards and Technical Services

477 Rehabilitation Services

47 – Ministry of Health– Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007 was put and carried.

BILL S - First, Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 2007 – Bill No. 9 of 2007 published on 2007-02-02

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Order Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2007 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting

On motions by the Minister 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, 2007, 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.

ITEM 3 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 10/2007 published on 2007-02-02

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The following amendment moved by Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P. and seconded by Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., was put and negatived:

“delete the words “three hundred and thirty six thousand dollars” and replace them with the words “four hundred and eighty thousand dollars”.

Clause 2 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2007 was read a third time and passed as printed.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Speaker thanked Members of Parliament for their cooperation during the debate on the Budget Speech and consideration of the Estimates.

The Minister of Home Affairs expressed his deepest gratitude to the Speaker, the media, officers of the various Ministries and the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for their hard work and cooperation during the debate on the Budget Speech and the consideration of the 2007 Estimates of Expenditure.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.17 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarissa Riehl', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.,
Acting Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

20th February, 2007.