

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 31ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2006-2007)
OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 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

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) (Absent)

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 Co-operation (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-on leave)

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

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

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 (Absent-on leave)

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 (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

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

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

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

***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) (Absent-on leave)
- Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)
- Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
- Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.
- Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.
- 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
- ***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, 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) (Absent-on leave)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) Members of People’s National Congress Reform – One Guyana (22)

- Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition
- Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
- Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)
- Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.
- Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.
- Mr. Anthony Vieria, M.P. (Absent)

*** Non-Elected Member

4.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., (Absent-on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P.

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

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas 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 Kisson, 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 Holder, M.P.

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

5.

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

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

OFFICERS (2)

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.08 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter dated 9th August, 2007, from Ms. Chantalle Smith, M.P. tendering her resignation from the National Assembly with effect from 31st August, 2007.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, thanked Ms. Smith, M.P. for the kind sentiments expressed in her letter and wished her all success in her future endeavour.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS -

1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of the Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2005.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

Audited Accounts of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance for the year ended 31st December, 2006.

(Circulated)

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6.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-(3) By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments:

Third Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Police Service Commission.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**PUBLIC BUSINESS-****GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****BILLS – Second Readings****ITEM 1 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 17/2007 published on 2007-05-04**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with Articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2007-05-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Labour

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.12 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

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7.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.01 p.m., the sitting resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mr. Everall Franklin

Ms Gail Teixeira

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Keith Scott

Mr. Komal Chand

Mr. Mervyn Williams

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

IN COMMITTEE**Clauses 2 and 3**

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

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8.

Paragraph 3(1)

156A (1)

Immediately after the word 'shall' (line five) delete the rest of sentence and add the following words "present to the Speaker a petition to recall that Member signed by not less than two thirds of the persons on the list from which its' Members were extracted, supporting the recall of the member"

And

Paragraph 3 (2)

156A (1)

Delete the entire paragraph and replace with the following:

"The speaker being satisfied that the petition stated in 156A(1) is in order, shall notify the Member concerned of the notice of recall and declare the Member's seat vacant and the vacant seat be filled in the manner provided by law"

Clauses 2 and 3 were then **passed** as **amended**.

Assumed Resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2007 - Bill No. 17/2007 was read a third time and **passed** as **amended**.

9.

MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2), the Speaker's consent was obtained for the following motion to be proceeded with at that sitting:

ITEM 2 - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Minister of Health moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Committee of Appointments provided for in Article 119C of the constitution and established in the 9th Parliament on December 21, 2006 has been meeting regularly and has tabled three Reports, one Special Report and 4 motions to the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Committee of Appointments tabled a Motion proposing a list of 162 entities to consult with a new consensual mechanism for such consultations in relation to the Ethnic Relations Commission which had been unanimously supported by the said Committee;

AND WHEREAS this Motion on May 10, 2007 failed to achieve the support of two-thirds of the House as required by the constitution;

AND WHEREAS the Committee has since tried inclusive of its August 7th meeting to resolve the issue with a view to returning the matter for the attention of the House before the recess;

AND WHEREAS consensus on the way forward has not been obtained and the issues preventing the reconstitution of the ERC may remain unresolved for an extended period of time;

AND WHEREAS the term of office of the current Ethnic Relations Commissioners will come to an end in August 2007 while the Commission under Article 212A will continue to exist;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly takes note of this serious development;

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AND BE IT RESOLVED:

That the House so informs the President of the Republic;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the President to take such steps so as to enable the Ethnic Relations Commission to continue to carry out its constitutional responsibilities in the interim.

(Notice Paper No. 178 (M43 Govt25) published on 2007-08-08)

Presiding by Ms. Amna Ally, M.P.

The Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Ms. Amna Ally, M.P., took the Chair temporarily.

Return of Speaker

The Speaker returned and resumed the Chair.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Ms. Gail Teixeira

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

(i) **COMMITTEE BUSINESS****MOTION****ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS
IN RELATIONS TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE POLICE
SERVICE COMMISSION**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Third Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President that the following persons:

- (i) Mr. Ivan Crandon, D.S.M., Retired Deputy Commissioner of Police;
- (ii) Mr. Harold Martin, Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police;
- (iii) Mr. Franchot Duncan Clarke, Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police; and
- (iv) Mr. Dennis Morgan, A.A., Former Chairman of the Police Service Commission

have been nominated in accordance with Article 210 (1)(c) of the Constitution to be appointed Members of the Police Service Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 177 (M42 Private Member No. 4) published on 2007-08-07)

Mrs. Deborah Backer, spoke to the motion.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.08 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

9th August, 2007.