

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2008
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 Co-operation

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 (Absent)

*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.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., Chief Whip

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) (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 – Pomereroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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 in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

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

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

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 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.

Mr. Dave 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)

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

(ii) **Alliance for Change (5)**

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, 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 (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 2.43 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

1. **Death of Mr. Deryck Bernard**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, former Minister of Education and Member of Parliament, had died on Tuesday, 5th February, 2008.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, expressed sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard.

The Assembly, as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, observed a minute's silence.

2. **Visit of Mr. Shem Baldeosingh of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Shem Baldeosingh, Assistant Director of Reference Services of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, was visiting the Parliament of Guyana with respect to the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the Parliament Office, among other matters.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and himself, welcomed Mr. Baldeosingh to the Assembly and wished him a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Guyana.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order No. 3 of 2008.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order No. 4 of 2008.

(Circulated)

(2) The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented the following:

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other related materials.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

(3) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 7th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 27th December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(4) By Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee):

The Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2002 and 2003.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., asked the Prime Minister the following question:

1. Could the Prime Minister state when and at what time the owners and occupiers of lands at Buxton/Friendship area will be formally consulted on the clearing exercise taking place on their land without any permission from them?

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister, replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., asked the Prime Minister the following question:

2. Could the Prime Minister also state the level of compensation that will be paid to the farmers for the loss and damage to permanent crops in their cultivation, particularly, coconuts, mangoes, etc?

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister, replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., asked the Prime Minister the following question:

3. Could the Prime Minister state at what date, time and venue compensation will be paid to those farmers who had their cash crop on Brushe Dam damaged by bull dozers operated by the Security Forces?

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister, replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Mr. Winston Murray asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. GUYANA'S TOTAL NATIONAL DEBT AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Member Asking: Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

(i) What is the total national debt of Guyana as of November 1, 2007?

(ii) What is the itemized amount owed, to whom, and the scheduled dates of repayment?

(Notice Paper No. 190 (Q139 Opp136) published on 2007-11-26)

Answer:

This information is compiled on an annual basis and included in the consolidated financial statements that are prepared by Government and audited by the Auditor General.

2. **VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

- (i) What principles are employed by the Government in arriving at the list of companies granted exemption from VAT?
- (ii) Which Companies are receiving VAT exemptions?
- (iii) List all the tax exemptions - GT&T, BARAMA, OMAI, Digicel and other companies that are receiving apart from VAT?
- (iv) By which legal authority does the Finance Minister get the authority to grant VAT concessions?
(Notice Paper No. 191 (Q140 Opp137) published on 2007-11-26)

Answers:

- (i) Companies that had investment agreements that provided for exemption from consumption tax on identified inputs prior to the introduction of VAT would have had those agreements amended to provide for zero-rating of the said inputs for the purposes of VAT. Subsequently, investment agreements may provide for zero-rating of identified inputs for the purpose of VAT in accordance with applicable investment incentive regimes.
- (ii) Please see Appendix A

- (iii) The Guyana Revenue Authority publishes all tax exemptions granted to companies on an annual basis. Exemptions for the year 2006 have already been published in the national media during 2007. Exemptions granted during 2007 will be published during 2008.
- (iv) The Value Added Tax Act 2005.

3. **COST OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED BY GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT CO.
(GPL)**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

With the world market price for fuel trading at over US\$95.00 a barrel (ninety five dollars) and expected to rise to US\$100.00 (one hundred dollars) a barrel shortly, what action, if any, is the Government taking to ease the impact on the cost of electricity supplied by GPL?

(Notice Paper No. 193 (Q142 Opp139) published on 2007-11-26)

Answer:

The increased oil price over 2007 which increased GPL's cost of fuel from G\$9.7 billion (US\$48.5 million) as budgeted to an actual of G\$14.39 billion (US\$72.0 million) was indeed a big blow to the hopes and efforts of this Minister, the entire Government and GPL to keep electricity prices constant and even reduce them. However, much we dislike this, however much it pains, and it does pain, this cost had and has to be met.

The ways open to Government to ameliorate electricity prices are the same as we have been utilizing before:

- (i) forego and defer payments due from GPL as much as we could – payments/dividends due to Government as owner; and as Government, the waiving of taxes on fuel and routing concessionary loans and other support to GPL.

It should be noted that these do not lower the costs of producing the electricity, and we, Government and all of us pay a price in the foregoing of other goods and services which would have been provided if Government had received these revenue inflows.

- (ii) This Minister and Government continue to demand of GPL, the Management and all employees that the utility be run steadily more efficiently and effectively, aiming always to attain the lowest possible, sustainable costs. In this regard Board and Management have been pursuing the reorganization of GPL's total workforce, to attain significant reduction in employment costs, and are implementing programmes to reduce electricity losses. In both these areas this Minister asks for your kind understanding and support.
- (iii) Reluctantly, inevitably, some greater or lesser portion of the increase has to be passed on to the consumers.

This Minister and Government call on all consumers and the public at large to observe that with the increased fuel prices and the consequential higher cost of electricity, and the need for us to live within our means, we must conserve electricity, use it more carefully and sparingly – conserve, switch-off, unplug. In this regard this Minister entreats the understanding and cooperation of all.

Once we live smarter, work harder, we will overcome all difficulties that the world may throw at us.

- (iv) For the longer term, the Government is pursuing local alternative energy sources which may now be less expensive than petroleum fuel and provide protection against expected further increases in petroleum prices. In this regard the Government's pursuit of the development of AMAILA's Fall is well known.

For Oral Replies

4. **RISING OIL PRICE**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

*Given that the world price for a barrel of oil is now trading at over US\$95.00 (ninety five dollars) and projected to rise to US\$100.00 (one hundred dollars), is the Finance Minister prepared to consider abolishing the tax on fuels to ease the effect on the cost of living?

(Notice Paper No. 192 (Q141 Opp138) published on 2007-11-26)

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

5. **NIS PENSIONERS**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

1. *Will the Honourable Minister reveal how many NIS pensioners have appeals pending which challenge the institution's decision on their NIS pension benefits?
2. *Will the Hon. Minister say what percentage of appeals, over the last five years, has been approved and payments granted to pensioners?
3. *Will the Hon. Minister state how long it takes, on average, for the NIS to make pension payments:

13.

- After a candidate reaches the pensionable age of 60?
 - After appeals have been investigated and approved?
4. *Will the Hon. Minister say what percentage of the total NIS income is based on contributors who have migrated before making the required number of pensionable contributions?
(Notice Paper No. 198 (Q144 Opp 141) published on 2007-12-07)

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

6. CRITCHLOW LABOUR COLLEGE

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following question:

Could the Minister say:-

- *For what reason or reasons have portions of the subvention approved in the 2007 Estimates to the Critchlow Labour College been withheld?
(Notice Paper No. 210 (Q150 Opp147) published on 2008-01-03)

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

Series of Events Leading up to the Slaughter of eleven (11) people, including five children at Lusignan on 26th January, 2008

The Minister of Home Affairs made a statement on the series of events leading up to the slaughter of eleven (11) people, including five children at Lusignan on 26th January, 2008.

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

1. **Brutal and Horrific Killings of eleven (11) Guyanese Citizens**

Mr. Robert Corbin withdrew his request for the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance to wit the Brutal and Horrific Killings of eleven Guyanese Citizens.

2. **Series of Events Leading up to the Slaughter of eleven (11) people, including five children at Lusignan on 26th January, 2008**

A request by the Minister of Home Affairs to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the above matter was allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over until the resumption of the sitting following the suspension thereof.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 1/2008**

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.

2. **GUYANA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ACT 1974 (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 30/2007 published on 2008-01-12**

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P. presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Presbyterian Church Act 1974.

(i) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

With the leave of the Speaker, a motion by Mr. Robert Corbin, seconded by Mr. Winston Murray, for the suspension of Standing Order No. 28(3) was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Franklin
 Mr. Patterson
 Ms Budhan
 Mrs. Holder
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Fernandes
 Ms Kisson
 Ms Wade
 Dr. Austin
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Mervyn Williams
 Mrs. David-Blair
 Mr. Elliot
 Mr. Norton

AGAINST

Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Mr. Parmanand Persaud
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Khan
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Ali
 Ms Shadick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nokta

Mr. Danny
Miss Ally
Mr. Scott
Mrs. Lawrence
Dr. Norton
Mr. Basil Williams
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Carberry
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

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Ms Teixeira
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Prashad
Ms Webster
Dr. Ramsaran
Dr. Fox
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Dr. Westford
Mr. Robert Persaud
Mr. Nawbatt
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Dr. Ramsammy
Dr. Jeffrey
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT CO. INC.

At a request of Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS citizens continue to register dissatisfaction with the Guyana Power and Light Co.'s inefficient service and constant blackouts; the practice of estimating electricity bills at rates far above normal monthly billing amounts; back billing for suspected meter tampering and imposing pay-back arrangements that are burdensome to the consumer;

AND WHEREAS the Public Utilities Commission has had cause to enquire into the Guyana Power and Light's service, billing practices, disconnection practices and motives and procedures with respect to making arrangements for customers to repay amounts charged for back billing, but such enquiries have not led to a reduction of complaints and concerns pertaining to GPL's service;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That a Special Select Committee be established to enquire into and to investigate the services being provided by the Guyana Power and Light Co. and to make recommendations for its improvement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee be permitted to received evidence from Members of the public and organizations, including consumers, the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Associations, the Private Sector and civil society organizations working with affected groups;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee report to this National Assembly within three months and the National Assembly communicates the findings and recommendations to the Guyana Power and Light Co. for their adoption.

(Notice Paper No. 196 (M50 Opp 13) published on 2007-12-06)

ITEM 2 - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAW REFORM COMMISSION

At a request of Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the British Guiana Legislature enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation many of which remain in force more than 100 years after their enactment;

AND WHEREAS, since Guyana attained its independence on the 26th day of May, 1966, the Parliament of Guyana also enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation;

AND WHEREAS an ongoing and systematic review of all of these Acts of Parliament, together with their subsidiary legislation, is required to ensure that they are updated, amended and, where necessary, repealed;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have an ongoing and continuing process for the review, updating and modernization of the laws of Guyana, including the enactment of new legislation, which respond to and reflect the present and future needs and aspiration of the people of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS it is accepted, in many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, that the most efficient and institutional mechanism to systematically review and modernize the laws of their respective countries and plan for future legislation is a permanent Law Reform Commission;

AND WHEREAS many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries have established permanent Law Reform Commissions,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government to establish an independent permanent Law Reform Commission with the mandate, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To keep under continuous review, all of the Laws of Guyana, with the view to their systematic development and reform, including: the modification of any branch of the law; the elimination of anomalies; the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments; the reduction of the number of separate enactments; and generally, the modernization of the law;
2. To receive and consider suggestions for the reform of the law which may be forwarded to it by Ministers of the Government; public officials; associations of lawyers and members of the public;
3. To obtain such information, in regard to the laws and legal systems of other countries, as in the opinion of the Commission, is likely to facilitate the effective performance of any of its functions;
4. To make recommendations to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for the modification, repeal and generally, for the modernization of the Law of Guyana.

(Notice Paper No. 207 (M55 Opp 15) published on 2007-12-24)

ITEM 3 - LIMIT ON THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS

At a request of Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P., the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act was assented to by His Excellency the President of Guyana on the 16th December, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the said Act is intended, *inter alia*, to improve accountability in fiscal management;

AND WHEREAS Section 81 of the said Act makes provision for the forgiveness, postponement or reduction of debts by the Minister of Finance;

AND WHEREAS Section 81(3) of the said Act provides that the National Assembly may set a limit on the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced by the Minister of Finance without the approval of the National Assembly in any fiscal year;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly hereby sets a limit of \$10 million (ten million dollars) as the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced without the approval of the National Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this limit takes effect from fiscal year 2007.

(Notice Paper No. 213 (M 58 Opp 16) published on 2008-01-18)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**Series of Events Leading up to the Slaughter of eleven (11) people, including five children at Lusignan on 26th January, 2008**

In accordance with permission granted earlier, the Minister of Home Affairs moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the matter to wit the series of events leading up to the slaughter of eleven (11) people, including five children at Lusignan on 26th January, 2008.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.15 p.m., while the Minister of Home Affairs was speaking to the motion, the Speaker suspended the sitting to discuss with the Prime Minister (Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly), the contumacious conduct of the Minister of Home Affairs in the presence of the House.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Home Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Public Service

The Minister of Labour

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Ms Gail Teixeira -

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.18 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 18th February, 2008.



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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

14th February, 2008.

APPENDIX A

COMPANIES WHICH CURRENTLY RECEIVE V.A.T EXEMPTIONS

1. Interior Forest Industries
2. Barama Buckhall
3. Barama Co. Ltd.
4. Buddy's International Hotel
5. Caribbean Container Inc.
6. GT&T
7. Guysuco
8. Namilco
9. National Hardware
10. Guyana Power & Light
11. B. Bhaichandeen Ltd/Hotel Penthouse
12. Bakewell
13. Brandsville Apartments/Hotel
14. Caribbean Resources Limited
15. Cel*Star Guyana Inc.
16. Demerara Timbers Limited
17. Grand Coastal Hotels
18. Guyana Lottery Company
19. Oldendorff Carriers (Guyana) Inc.
20. Omai Services Inc.
21. TCL Guyana Ltd.
22. Variety Woods & Greenheart
23. Zoom Inn Hotel
24. LINMINE
25. Sleepin Guest House
26. BK International
27. Cara Hotels
28. Crown Agents
29. Desinco Trading Ltd.
30. Toolsie Persaud Ltd.
31. Qualfon
32. C.B. & R. Mining Enterprise
33. Conservation International
34. Guyana Ranch
35. Imataka Hotel
36. Bounty Farm
37. Caricom Rice Mills Ltd.
38. Casique Palace Suites
39. CDC Mining & Consultancy
40. Compare Bread Inc.
41. Densu Ventures Inc.
42. Durable Hardwoods Establishment

43. Borabo Enterprises Inc.
44. Edward B. Beharry & Company
45. E-Networks
46. Guycan Machine Works Ltd.
47. Guyenterprise
48. Haurauni Agricultural Development
49. Jaling Forest Industries Inc.
50. Linden Quarries Inc.
51. North American Resources Inc.
52. Ocean View International Hotel
53. Ogle Airport Inc.
54. Pomeroon Oil Mill
55. Saj Rice Group
56. Sanmik Civil Works Ltd.
57. Shakoor's Trading

MINING COMPANIES WHICH CURRENTLY RECEIVE V.A.T EXEMPTIONS

1. JP Knight (Int'l) B.V.
2. Ontario Inc.
3. Bauxite Company of Guyana
4. Baracara Quarries Inc.
5. Alfro Alphonso & Sons
6. Aroaima Mining Company
7. Correia Mining Company Ltd.
8. ETK Inc.
9. GoldPort Resources
10. Goldstone Resources
11. Omai Bauxite Mining Inc.
12. Omai Gold Mines Ltd.
13. Prometheus Resources
14. StrataGold Guyana Inc.
15. Guiana Shields Resources