

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 49<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**  
**(2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

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\*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.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. (Absent – on leave)

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)

**\*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 – Pomeroon/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 – Pomeroon/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.

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\*\*\*Non-elected Member

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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 Kissoon, 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.

(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 2.15 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - BUDGET SPEECH 2008 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2008**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2008.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2008-02-22)**

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**ii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

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**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****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**

**21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

211 Ministry Administration

212 Crops and Livestock Support Services

213 Fisheries

214 Hydrometeorological Services

**21 – Ministry of Agriculture– Capital Expenditure**

**03 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

031 Ministry Administration

032 Government Accounting Administration

**03 – Ministry of Finance– Capital Expenditure**

**Assembly resumed**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.42 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 6.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had completed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2008 and had approved of them as printed.

The motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2008 was then put and carried.



**BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS**

**ITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 2008 – Bill No. 2/2008**

On a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2008 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 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008, 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 3 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 1/2008 published on 2008-02-06**

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

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

**(Read a first time on 2008-02-14)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Everall Franklin

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 4** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 4 - EXCISE TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 3/2008 published on 2008-02-29**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Excise Tax Act 2005.

(Read a first time on 2008-03-03)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 3** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Excise (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.47 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, 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.**

**10<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.**