

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 56TH 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, 3RD JULY, 2008
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

(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 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 Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

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

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Minister of Agriculture (Absent – on leave)

/...2

*Non-elected Minister

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

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) (Absent)

***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) (Absent – on leave)

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

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 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)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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. Overall N. Franklin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - VISITING FORCES BILL 2008 – Bill No. 5/2008 published on 2008-06-19

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for armed forces of certain States visiting Guyana and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2008-06-26)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Anil Nandlall

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Ms Gail Teixeira

While Mr. Aubrey Norton 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 5.00 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Aubrey Norton continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 34 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Visiting Forces Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - STATUS OF VISITING POLICE FORCES BILL 2008 – Bill No. 6/2008 published on 2008-06-19

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the presence, activities, privileges and immunities of members of foreign police forces and civilian personnel in Guyana and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2008-06-26)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Robert Corbin

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 27 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Status of Visiting Police Forces Bill 2008 was read a third time and **passed as printed.**

ITEM 3 - HIJACKING AND PIRACY BILL 2008 – Bill No. 7/2008 published on 2008-06-25

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make special provisions for punishment for the offences of armed robbery, hijacking and piracy and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2008-06-26)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

While Mrs. Clarissa Riehl was speaking to the motion, the time for the suspension was reached.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(2)

At 7.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Health, Standing Order No. 10(2) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue its debate uninterrupted.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Health

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 16 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Hijacking and Piracy Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.07 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



.....

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

3rd July, 2008.