

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 59<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 FRIDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> 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 the 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 (Absent – on leave)

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

\*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)

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**\*Non-elected Minister**

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of Public Service (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent)

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 (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.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

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**

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) (Absent – on leave)

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)

**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)

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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)

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent)

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. (Absent)

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

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 2.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Oral Replies**

**\*1. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MICRO PROJECT SCHEME**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P. asked the Minister of Finance to following question:

- (i) \*Does the Government proposes to endorse and support the European Union's Micro Project Scheme?
- (ii) \* If the Government has declined to endorse or is still studying the proposals does it concern relate to the type of projects and/or the location of the communities receiving the financing?
- (iii) \*Is the Government of Guyana providing any moneys to be disbursed for the project? If so, how much?

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(iv) \*Is the Government reviewing the general policy regarding aid and assistance by foreign governments and aid institutions?

(v) \* If the Government is still studying the proposals will the Hon. Minister give an indication of when this study is likely to be completed?

**(Notice Paper No. 248 (Q173 Opp168) published on 2008-07-01)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Finance a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. Mervyn Williams asked the Minister of Finance supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Finance supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

## **2. SPECIAL EDUCATION IN GUYANA**

Mr. Mervyn Williams, on behalf of Ms Anna Ally, asked the Minister of Education the following question:

(i) \*Could the Honourable Minister share with this National Assembly the programme for Special Education in Guyana?

(ii) \*Is there a Special Education Union to deal with Special Education in Guyana?

(iii) \* What is the staffing strength of this Unit?

**(Notice Paper No. 249 (Q174 Opp169) published on 2008-07-03)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. Mervyn Williams asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

### **3. DAVID ROSE SCHOOL**

Mr. Mervyn Williams, on behalf of Ms Anna Ally, asked the Minister of Education the following question:

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly which category of schools the David Rose School falls under?

**(Notice Paper No. 250 (Q175 Opp170) published on 2008-07-03)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Mervyn Williams asked the Minister of Education supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

**4. MONITORING OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN REGION #5**

Mr. Mervyn Williams, on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, asked the Minister of Education the following question:

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly what is the role of the Regional Executive Officer of Region #5 in the monitoring of the school system in Region #5?

**(Notice Paper No. 251 (Q176 Opp171) published on 2008-07-03)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Mr. Mervyn Williams asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - THE EVIDENCE AND MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC**

**(AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 8/2008 published on 2008-07-11**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act and the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

**(Read a first time on 2008-07-17)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulic

Mr. Raphael Trotman



The Minister of Health

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 4** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Evidence and Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.08 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.12 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 2 - PREVENTION OF CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 –Bill No. 9/2008**  
**published on 2008-07-11**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Prevention of Crimes Act.

**(Read a first time on 2008-07-17)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Ms Bibi Shadick

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

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 5** were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Prevention of Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.28 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.15 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 3 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 10/2008 published on 2008-07-11**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

**(Read a first time on 2008-07-17)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mr. Norman Whittaker

Mr. Raphael Trotman

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

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 5** were passed as printed.

**Clause 6**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

**Clause 6 subsection 3 (a) –**

“after the word “telephone” delete the words “or one so equipped as to allow the use of either hand”

**Clause 6 subsection 4 –**

“after the word “who” delete the words “drives a motor vehicle on any road in contravention of” and insert the word “contravenes”

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 7 to 9 were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2008 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly as adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008.



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

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

**25<sup>th</sup> July, 2008.**