

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 60<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 THURSDAY, 31<sup>ST</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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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**\*Non-elected Minister**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-****For Oral Replies****1. TRUANCY****Member Asking:                    Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.****Minister Answering:            The Minister of Education**

- (a) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly how many persons have been charged and successfully prosecuted for failing to send their children to school for the period 1993 to 2007?
- (b) \*Could the Honourable Minister share with this National Assembly how his Ministry proposes to deal with the issue of non-attendance/low-attendance of children at Government schools?
- (c) \*Is the Honourable Minister aware that several school children in Orealla, Corentyne River often work on their family farms instead of attending school?
- (d) \*Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly how his Ministry proposes to address the issue of children who have attained the compulsory age of School enrollment but have been precluded from so enrolling as a result of not having Birth Certificates?
- (e) \*Could the Honourable Minister share with this National Assembly:
- (i) What system(s) his Ministry has/have in place identifying children who are within the compulsory age and are not attending school?
  - (ii) Mechanism(s) in place to ensure that these children enter/re-enter the school system?

**(Notice Paper No. 247 (Q172 Opp167) published on 2008-07-01)**

**2. STATUS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXERCISE BOOKS**

**Member Asking:** Ms Amna Ally M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Education share with this National Assembly the status of the distribution of exercise books to all schools by the book Distribution Unit?

(Notice Paper No. 252 (Q177 Opp172) published on 2008-07-03)

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-**

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

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**1. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2008**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$731,373,614 for the period 2008-04-03 to 2008-07-22.

**(Notice Paper No. 256 (M 73 Govt 43) published on 2008-07-24)**

**(Paper presented on 2008-07-24)**

2. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2008**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$4,109,239,962 for the period ended 2008-12-31.

**(Notice Paper No. 257 (M74 Govt 44) published on 2008-07-24)**

**(Paper presented on 2008-07-24)**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

3. **FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 14 of 2008**  
**published on 2008-07-23**

The Minister of Finance to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act and the Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act.

**(Read a first time on 2008-07-24)**

5.

4. **MONEY TRANSFER AGENCIES (LICENSING) BILL 2008 – No. 15 of 2008**  
**published on 2008-07-23**

The Minister of Finance to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the licensing of persons carrying on the business of money transfer agencies; to make provision for the registering of money transfer agents and for connected purposes.

**(Read a first time on 2008-07-24)**

5. **SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 11/2008**  
**published on 2008-07-11**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act.

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

**BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings**

- \*6. **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM BILL 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007**  
**published on 2007-06-04**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

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\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit; to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and eventually forfeited; to provide for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and terrorist property; to require reporting entities to take preventive measures to help combat money laundering and terrorist financing; to provide for civil forfeiture of assets and for matters connected therewith.

*(Read a first time on 2007-06-07)*

*(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-06-07)*

\*7. **THE FORESTS BILL 2007 – Bill No. 21 of 2007 published on 2007-07-24**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to consolidate and amend the law relating to forests.

*(Read a first time on 2007-08-02)*

*(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-11-08)*

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\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

**(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and first Reading**

**\*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., is to seek leave to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give access to information to members of the public.

**(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

  
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**S.E. ISAACS**  
**Clerk of the National Assembly**

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

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

**\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**