

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 65th 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, 30TH OCTOBER, 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

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

***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 (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent)

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 (Absent-on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health
(Absent-on leave)

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

*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

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)

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.

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)

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. (Absent-on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent-on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

*****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 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. (Absent on leave)

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

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

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

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

(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

Miss Hermina Gilgeours, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2:05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

For Oral Reply

**NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE
COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT**

At the request of the Minister of Home Affairs the following question was deferred:

*Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly how many persons have been charged under the provisions of the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, Act No. 2 of 2005?

(Notice Paper No. 266 (Q185 Opp 180) published on 2008-10-01)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2008

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$1,848,047,997 for the period 2008-07-23 to 2008-10-22.

(Notice Paper No. 286 (M 80 Govt 47) published on 2008-10-27)

(Paper presented on 2008-10-27)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was then put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this National Assembly agrees with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$1,848,047,997 for the period 2008-07-23 to 2008-10-22.

(Notice Paper No. 286 (M 80 Govt 47) published on 2008-10-27)

(Paper presented on 2008-10-27)

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2008

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$984,061,416 for the period ending 2008-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 287 (M81 Govt 48) published on 2008-10-27)

(Paper presented on 2008-10-27)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was then put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this National Assembly agrees with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2008 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$984,061,416 for the period ending 2008-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 287 (M81 Govt 48) published on 2008-10-27)

(Paper presented on 2008-10-27)

BILL – First, Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 FOR 2008) BILL 2008

Bill No. 23/2008 published on 27th October, 2008

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, Standing Orders Nos. 13(a) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 23/2008 to be introduced at that stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On a motion 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 31st 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.

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

ACCESS TO LOCAL AND EXTERNAL TELEVISION CHANNELS, OTHER THAN NCN CHANNELS, AT LINDEN

At the request of Mr. Robert Corbin, on behalf of Mrs. Sheila Holder, consideration of the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS Article 146(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana provides for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and is the supreme law of the land and directs:

“Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, that is to say, freedom to hold opinions without interference, freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference and freedom from interference with his correspondence”;

AND WHEREAS the people of Linden and Wismar have expressed to the leadership of the Alliance For Change their frustration and anger at being denied the right to access local and external television channels other than NCN channels 11 and 8 operated by the State,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly endorses the fundamental rights of these citizens to receive ideas and information without interference via television media other than those which are provided by NCN;


AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana and its National Frequency Management Unit to permit operators of private television channels in Guyana the right to relay and bean their channels in Linden and Wismar without having to attain additional licenses and pay additional fees.

(Notice Paper No. 264 (M77 Opp22) published on 2008-07-31)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, 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.

30th October, 2008.