

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 80TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2009
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. 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. 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. Charles R. Ramson, 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

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

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Albert A. Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

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***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. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent)

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)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

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

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*****Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary**

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

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.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, 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)

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

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Latchmin 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. 07p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

For Written Replies

1. **PENSIONERS OF REGIONS 1, 7, 8, 9 AND 10**

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security inform this Honourable House and pensioners in the remote communities of Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10, whether any provisions have been put in place for:

- (i) Old Age Pensioners books to be delivered to each of these communities?
- (ii) The setting up of service providers to cash vouchers in these remote communities thus easing the burden of transportation costs?

(Notice Paper No. 369 (Q277 Opp262) published on 2009-01-30)

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

2. **LAYING OF REPORTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – BY THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security inform this Honourable House when the following would be laid in this National Assembly:

7.

- (i) A Senior Citizens Policy Development Report and
- (ii) A National Policy for Senior Citizens?
(Notice Paper No. 370 (Q278 Opp263) published on 2009-01-30)

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2009 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2009

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2009-02-09)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- 011 Administrative Services
 - 012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
 - 014 Public Policy and Planning
- 01 - Office of the President – Capital Expenditure**

09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

091 Public and Police Service Commission

09 – Public and Police Service Commissions– Capital Expenditure

10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

101 Teaching Service Commission

10- Teaching Service Commission– Capital Expenditure

11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION

111 Elections Commission

112 Elections Administration

11 – Elections Commission– Capital Expenditure

53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

531 Defence Headquarters

53 – Guyana Defence Force– Capital Expenditure

57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

571 Ombudsman

58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

58 – Public Service Appellate Tribunal– Capital Expenditure

02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

02 – Office of the Prime Minister– Capital Expenditure

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

071 National Assembly

07 – Parliament Office– Capital Expenditure

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

311 Ministry Administration

312 Public Works

313 Communication and Transport

31 – Ministry of Public Works and Communications– Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.10 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.04 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL**CO-OPERATION****15 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation – Capital Expenditure****04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

041 Ministry Administration

042 Foreign Relations

043 Foreign Trade & International Co-operation

04 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs– Capital Expenditure

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

441 Ministry Administration

442 Culture

443 Youth

444 Sports

44 – Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport– Capital Expenditure

41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- 411 Main Office
 - 412 National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision
 - 413 Ministry Administration
 - 414 Training and Development
 - 415 Education Delivery
- 41 – Ministry of Education– Capital Expenditure**

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.33 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 25th February, 2009.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

24th February, 2009.