

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 81ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH 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 (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 (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent – on leave)

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

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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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 – on leave)

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.

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**

4.

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.

5.

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. 08 p.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-

13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

131 Main Office

132 Ministry Administration

133 Regional Development

13 – Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development– Capital Expenditure

71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

711 Regional Administration and Finance

712 Public Works

713 Education Delivery

714 Health Services

71 – Region 1: Barima/Waini– Capital Expenditure**72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM**

721 Regional Administration and Finance

722 Agriculture

723 Public Works

724 Education Delivery

725 Health Services

72 – Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam– Capital Expenditure**73 – REGION 3 - ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA**

731 Regional Administration and Finance

732 Agriculture

733 Public Works

734 Education Delivery

735 Health Services

73 – Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara– Capital Expenditure**74 – REGION 4: DEMARARA/MAHAICA**

741 Regional Administration and Finance

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education Delivery

745 Health Services

74 – Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica– Capital Expenditure**75 – REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE**

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

754 Education Delivery

755 Health Services

75 – Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice– Capital Expenditure

76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

764 Education Delivery

765 Health Services

76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne- Capital Expenditure

77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

771 Regional Administration and Finance

772 Public Works

773 Education Delivery

774 Health Services

77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni- Capital Expenditure

78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

781 Regional Administration and Finance

782 Public Works

783 Education Delivery

784 Health Services

78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni- Capital Expenditure

79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

791 Regional Administration and Finance

792 Agriculture

793 Public Works

794 Education Delivery

795 Health Services

79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo- Capital Expenditure

80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE

801 Regional Administration and Finance

802 Public Works

803 Education Delivery

804 Health Services

80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice- Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.54 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.35 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-

45 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

451 Housing and Water

45 – Ministry of Housing and Water– Capital Expenditure

21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

211 Ministry Administration

212 Crops and Livestock Support Services

213 Fisheries

214 Hydrometeorological Services

21 – Ministry of Agriculture– Capital Expenditure

48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

481 Ministry Administration

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

48 – Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security– Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.12p.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 Thursday, 26th February, 2009.


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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

25th February, 2009.