

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 82ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 26TH 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 (Absent – on leave)

*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 (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

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 (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education (Absent)

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)

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. (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Anna 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) (Absent)

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 Kisson, 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. (Absent)

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. 13 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).

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

The Financial Crisis in Guyana

A request by Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly on a matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the financial crisis in Guyana caused by the distress of Colonial Life Insurance Company, the Hand-in-Hand Trust and other entities, was disallowed by the Speaker.

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-

51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force

Presiding of Ms Gail Teixeira

While the Minister of Home Affairs was speaking, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Ms Gail Teixeira took the Chair temporarily.

Return of Speaker

While the Minister of Home Affairs was speaking, the Speaker returned and resumed the Chair.

- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Office
- 51 – Ministry of Home Affairs– Capital Expenditure**

52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

- 521 Main Office
- 522 Ministry Administration
- 523 Attorney General's Chambers
- 524 Office of the State Solicitor
- 525 Deeds Registry
- 52 – Ministry of Legal Affairs– Capital Expenditure**

55 - SUPREME COURT

- 551 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 552 Magistrates' Department
- 55 – Supreme Court– Capital Expenditure**

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

561 Public Prosecutions

56 - Director of Public Prosecutions— Capital Expenditure

14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

141 Public Service Management

14 - Public Service Ministry— Capital Expenditure

23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

231 Main Office

232 Ministry Administration

233 Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs

23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce— Capital Expenditure

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.16 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.08 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-

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

161 Amerindian Development

16 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs— Capital Expenditure

46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION

461 Public Hospital

46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation— Capital Expenditure

47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- 471 Ministry Administration
 - 472 Diseases Control
 - 473 Primary Health Care Services
 - 474 Regional and Clinical Services
 - 475 Health Sciences Education
 - 476 Standards and Technical Services
 - 477 Rehabilitation Services
- 47 - Ministry of Health- Capital Expenditure**

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- 031 Ministry Administration
 - 032 Government Accounting Administration
- 03 - Ministry of Finance- Capital Expenditure**

Assembly resumed

The Minister of Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009 was put and carried.

BILL - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 2009 - Bill NO. 7/2009 published on 2009-02-09

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2009 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On motions 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, 2009, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purpose, in conformity with the Constitution.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.02 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

26th February, 2009.