

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 85TH 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, 23RD APRIL, 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

*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)

***Non-elected Minister**

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2.

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of Public Service (Absent – on leave)

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 – on leave)

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

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Absent – on leave)

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.

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**

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 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) (Absent)

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. 20 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

- (1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):
Minutes of Proceedings of the 11th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on
Thursday, 9th April, 2009.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Finance (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2007):
Report of the Special Select Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the
Financing of Terrorism Bill 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007.

(Circulated)

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)

Answers:

- (i) The Government's Policy regarding the distribution of pension books to old age pensioners is that each pensioner who presents him/herself for his/her pension book must receive said pension book in the year before the pension vouchers of a said book becomes due and payable.
- (ii) Various other means of en-cashing pension vouchers are being explored. Many considerations including security concerns are in the forefront of said explorations.

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:

- (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)

Answer:

A National Policy for senior citizens is being drafted by the Commission of the Elderly. Efforts are underway to complete this document soonest.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. **PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 13/2009**

The Minister of Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utility Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration Act.

2. **SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 14/2009**

The Minister of Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Shops (Consolidation) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

**ITEM 1 - TIME LIMIT FOR JUDICIAL DECISIONS BILL 2009 – Bill No. 8/2009
published on 2009-03-23**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to specify a time limit in accordance with Article 197(3) of the Constitution within which a Judge shall give a decision on a civil case and any appeal case and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2009-04-09)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 13 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Time Limit for Judicial Decisions Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.38 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.28 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 2 - ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 9/2009 published on 2009-04-07

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000.

(Read a first time on 2009-04-09)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Amna Ally

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. David Patterson

Mr. Robert Corbin

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

At 7.14 p.m., while Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., was speaking, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair temporarily.

Return of Speaker

At 7.45 p.m., the Speaker returned and resumed the Chair.

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

Ms Anna Ally, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“In the proviso, insert the words ‘each category of scrutineers, one in each’

The amended clause will thus read as follows:

‘Provided that one scrutineer in each category of scrutineers, one in each registration division and one in any subdivision thereof appointed by-’”

Clause 2(a)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and negatived on the following division:

By substituting in Clause 2(a) the words ‘in accordance with an administrative scheme made by the Elections Commission’, the words, ‘on the basis of proportionality’

FOR

Mr. Franklin
Mr. Patterson
Mrs. Budhan
Mrs. Holder
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Trotman

AGAINST

Mr. Fernandes	Rev. Gilbert
Ms Kissoon	Dr. Mahadeo
Ms Wade	Mr. Whittaker
Dr. Austin	Mr. Seeraj
Miss Selman	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mr. Mervyn Williams	Mr. Parmanand Persaud
Mrs. David-Blair	Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Norton	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Danny	Mr. Nandlall

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Mrs. Sampson	Mr. Khan
Miss Ally	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Scott	Mr. DeSantos
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Chand
Dr. Norton	Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Basil Williams	Miss Shadick
Mrs. Backer	Mr. Nokta
Mr. Carberry	Mrs. Chandarpal
Mrs. Riehl	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Murray	Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Corbin	Mr. Ali
	Dr. Ramsaran
	Mr. Nadir
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Anthony
	Mr. Lall
	Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
	Dr. Ramsammy
	Mr. Rohee
	Mr. Hinds

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Clause 2(b)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and negatived on the following division:

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Delete "(1A) The list of scrutineers of the combined opposition of the National Assembly to be remunerated shall be submitted by the Leader of the Opposition after meaningful consultation with the other opposition parties in the National Assembly', and insert the following clause as the new (1A):

"(1A) The list of Scrutineers of the combined opposition of the National Assembly to be remunerated proportionately shall be submitted by the Leader of the Opposition."

FOR

Mr. Franklin
Mr. Patterson
Mrs. Budhan
Mrs. Holder
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Trotman

AGAINST

Mr. Fernandes	Rev. Gilbert
Ms Kissoon	Dr. Mahadeo
Ms Wade	Mr. Whittaker
Dr. Austin	Mr. Seeraj
Miss Selman	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mr. Mervyn Williams	Mr. Parmanand Persaud
Mrs. David-Blair	Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Norton	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Danny	Mr. Nandlall
Mrs. Sampson	Mr. Khan
Miss Ally	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Scott	Mr. DeSantos
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Chand
Dr. Norton	Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Basil Williams	Miss Shadick
Mrs. Backer	Mr. Nokta
Mr. Carberry	Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Murray	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Corbin	Mr. Ramotar

14.

Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsaran
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Lall
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 8.10 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.43 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

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ITEM 3 - PRESIDENT HOYTE PENSIONS BILL 2009 – Bill No. 10/2009 published on 2009-04-08

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to make special provisions relating to the pension of the late President Hoyte.

(Read a first time on 2009-04-09)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Robert Corbin

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the President Hoyte's Pension Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.51 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, 29th April, 2009.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

23rd April, 2009.