

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 86TH 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, 29TH 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

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)

/...2

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

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 (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

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism,
Industry and Commerce (Absent – on leave)

*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)

/...3

***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 (Absent – on leave)

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

/...4

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

4.

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

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. (Absent)

5.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent)

(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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **POLICE STATIONS AND POLICE OUTPOSTS ALONG GUYANA'S BORDER
WITH VENEZUELA**

Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs provide this National Assembly with a list of Police Stations and Police Outposts that are located along and/or within a ten mile radius of Guyana's border with Venezuela?

(Notice Paper No. 381 (Q 281 Opp 266) published on 2009-04-03)

Answer:

"The Honourable Minister wishes to provide this National Assembly with the following list of Police Stations located along the border with Venezuela:

- (i) Eteringbang Police Station; and
- (ii) Imbotero Police Station."

"The Police Stations within a ten mile radius of Guyana's border with Venezuela are:

- (i) Morawhana Police Station;
- (ii) Yarakita Police Station;
- (iii) Ekereku Police Station;
- (iv) Baramita Police Station; and
- (v) Mabaruma Police Station."

2. **POLICE STATIONS AND POLICE OUTPOSTS ALONG GUYANA'S BORDER WITH BRAZIL**

Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs provide this National Assembly with a list of Police Stations and Police Outposts that are located along and/or within a ten mile radius of Guyana's border with Brazil?

(Notice Paper No. 382 (Q 282 Opp 267) published on 2009-04-03)

Answer:

"The Honourable Minister wishes to provide this National Assembly with the following list of Police Stations located along the border with Brazil:

- (i) Lethem Police Station; and
- (ii) Orinduik Police Station."

"The Police Stations within a ten mile radius of Guyana's border with Brazil are:

- (i) Monkey Mountain Police Station;
- (ii) Kato Police Station; and
- (iii) Karasabai Police Station."

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTION

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P. moved the following motion:

WHEREAS imprisonment as a form of punishment for persons found guilty of certain criminal offences is part of the statutory laws of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS imprisonment as a form of punishment is widely used by our Judiciary;

AND WHEREAS research has shown that a sentence of Community Service, for certain criminal offences, coupled, where necessary, with mandatory participation in rehabilitation programs is more beneficial to the community and the offender;

AND WHEREAS the benefits of a Community Service Program include: enhanced prison security; the reduction of over crowding; enhanced public health; better rehabilitated citizens; and the requirement that persons found guilty of crimes are required to repay their country by giving appropriate community service;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2006 – 2010 has identified “Introducing legislation to provide a modern framework for community service orders”, as one of its goals,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government of Guyana to give this Legislation priority, by the Tabling of a Community Service Bill, in this National Assembly, by July, 2009.

(Notice Paper No. 380 (M94 Opp 28) published on 2009-04-03)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

Mr. Bernard DeSantos

Mr. Everall Franklin

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

The Minister of Home Affairs

Thereafter Mrs. Deborah Backer replied.

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

After the 5th WHEREAS Clause insert as the 6th WHEREAS Clause the following:

“AND WHEREAS a comprehensive community service programme requires a multi-sector approach with additional skills, technical and financial resources,”

Delete the BET IT RESOLVED Clause and insert the following as the new BE IT RESOLVED Clause:

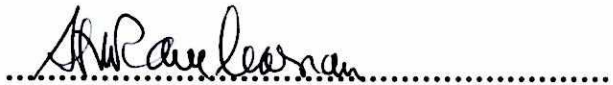
“BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government to examine the legislative instruments and to introduce appropriate amended legislation and the rest, after consultation with relevant stakeholders.”

At the request of Mr. E. Lance Carberry, on behalf of Mrs. Deborah Backer, the motion was withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.25 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly as adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 30th April, 2009.



HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.**

29th April, 2009.