

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 87TH 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, 30TH 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

***Non-elected Minister**

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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 (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

*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) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

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

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***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

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.

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.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

(1) By the Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committees on the Protection of Children Bill 2009 and the Status of Children Bill 2009):

- (i) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Protection of Children Bill 2009 – Bill No. 3 of 2009.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Status of Children Bill 2009 – Bill No. 5 of 2009.

(Circulated)

- (2) By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments):

Seventh Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS

Opening of the Takutu River Bridge

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and International Cooperation made a statement on the Opening of the Takutu River Bridge.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. **ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS BILL 2009 – Bill No. 15/2009**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for registration of members of allied health professions supplementary to the medical profession, regulation of practice of allied health professions and allied health services, to provide for maintenance of professional standards for allied health professions and health services and to make provisions for training of members of those professions and services and for related purposes.

Thereafter, without any question put, the Bill was referred to a Special Select Committee.

2. **LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES) BILL 2009**
– Bill No. 16/2009

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for benefits and other facilities to the Leader of the Opposition.

3. **INSURANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 17/2009**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make supplementary provisions to the Insurance Act 1998.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - OFFICE OF THE SPOUSE OF THE PRESIDENT BILL 2009 – Bill No. 11/2009 published on 2009-04-08

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provisions for the establishment of a public office for the spouse of the President.

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 3

The following amendments moved by Mr. Winston Murray and seconded by Mrs. Deborah Backer were put and negatived:

Insert after the word 'time' in the third line. Include as a new sentence the words 'Such Order shall be subject to Affirmative Resolution moved by the National Assembly.'

Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Office of the Spouse of the President Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - FORMER PRESIDENTS (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES) BILL 2009
- Bill No. 12/2009 published on 2009-04-08

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for benefits and other facilities to former Presidents.

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister of Labour

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.06 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.17 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. Aubrey Norton

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

Mr. Everall Franklin

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Former Presidents (Benefits and Other Facilities) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Patterson
Mrs. Budhan
Mrs. Holder
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Fernandes
Ms Kissoon
Ms Wade
Dr. Austin
Miss Selman
Mr. Mervyn Williams
Mrs. David-Blair
Mr. Elliot
Mr. Norton
Mr. Danny
Mrs. Sampson
Miss Ally
Mr. Scott

FOR

Mr. Franklin
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Seeraj
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mr. Parmanand Persaud
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Khan
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Nokta
Mrs. Chandarpal
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Ali
Mr. Prashad

Mrs. Lawrence
Dr. Norton
Mr. Basil Williams
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Carberry
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

Ms Webster
Dr. Ramsaran
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Lall
Dr. Westford
Mr. Robert Persaud
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.30 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 3 - ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF
TERRORISM BILL 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007 published on 2007-06-04**

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill which was referred to a Special Select Committee for consideration and report:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit; to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and eventually forfeited; to provide for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and terrorist property; to require reporting entities to take preventive measures to help combat money laundering and terrorist financing; to provide for civil forfeiture of assets and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2007-06-07)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-06-07)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Raphael Trotman

The Minister of Home Affairs

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 115 were passed as amended.

The Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2007 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.33 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 Thursday, 7th May, 2009.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

30th April, 2009.