

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 90TH 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, 28TH MAY, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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

*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 (Absent – on leave)

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**

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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. (Absent – on leave)

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)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES –

By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 12th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 21st May, 2009.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 21/2009

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act.

Thereafter the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 2009 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES)
BILL 2009 – Bill No. 16/2009 published on 2009-04-30

At the request of the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

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

(Read a first time on 2009-04-30)

ITEM 2 - OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 –
Bill No. 18/2009 published on 2009-05-15

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1997.

(Read a first time on 2009-05-21)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Everall Franklin

Mr. Norman Whittaker

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter the Minister of Labour 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 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, the Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - HOLIDAYS WITH PAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 19/2009
published on 2009-05-15

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Holidays with Pay Act 1995.
(Read a first time on 2009-05-21)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Norman Whittaker

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Labour 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 11 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, the Holidays With Pay (Amendment) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

**ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE MONEY TRANSFER AGENCIES (LICENSING) BILL 2008**

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Money Transfer Agencies (Licensing) Bill 2008), moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Money Transfer Agencies (Licensing) Bill 2008 – Bill NO. 15 of 2008 be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 387 (M98 Govt 57) published on 2009-05-21)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. David Patterson

The Minister of Housing and Water

Thereafter the Minister in the Ministry of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL – Third Reading

ITEM 5 - MONEY TRANSFER AGENCIES (LICENSING) BILL 2008 – No. 15 of 2008
published on 2008-07-23

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the third reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the licensing of persons carrying on the business of money transfer agencies; to make provision for the registering of money transfer agents and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2008-07-24)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-08-07)

MOTION

ITEM 6 - ADOPTION OF THE FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
SERVICES

At the request of Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services), the following motion was deferred:

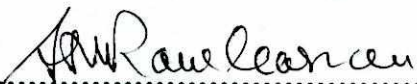
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Fourth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 386 (M97 PPP/C Private Member No. 12) published on 2009-05-20)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.52 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 4th June, 2009.


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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

28th May, 2009.