

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 91<sup>ST</sup> 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, 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 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

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

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**

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. (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 (Absent)

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 – on leave)

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Kwame Gilbert, M.P. (Absent)

**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.

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)

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. 07 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

1. **Official Launch of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy**

The Speaker informed Members that His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo extended an invitation to all Members of Parliament to participate in the Official Launch of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy at the Guyana International Convention Centre on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

2. **Letter from Mr. Delroy Chuck, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jamaica**

The Speaker informed Members that he had received a letter from Mr. Delroy Chuck, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jamaica on the passing of Mrs. Janet Jagan. The Speaker then read the following letter:

“It is with deep sadness that the Parliament of Jamaica received the news of the passing of the late Mrs. Janet Jagan, former President of the Republic of Guyana.

Undoubtedly, the region has lost one of its stalwarts in the campaign for women’s rights and workers’ equality, and an assiduous agitator in the fight for political independence in both the pre-and post-colonial era.

On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, on the occasion of the first meeting of the House of Representatives for the 2009/2010 Parliamentary Year, Members of this August Chamber recognized Mrs. Janet’s role in the development of politics in Guyana and the Region and observed a minute’s silence in honour of her life and work.

We wish to express our condolences to the people of Guyana and, in particular, her family and wish for them God’s peace and comfort in their time of bereavement. We kindly ask that you forward this letter to her immediate family on our behalf.”

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Readings**

1. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BILL 2009 – Bill No. 22/2009**

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

7.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish the Local Government Commission, as provided for by Article 78A of the Constitution, to provide for the Commission's functions and procedure; and for connected and incidental purposes.

Thereafter the Local Government Commission Bill 2009 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 23/2009**

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 Government Act.

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

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Reading**

**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 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)**

**COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
SERVICES**

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

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)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Agriculture

Thereafter Ms Gail Teixeira replied.

Thereafter the motion was then put and carried.



**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3.12 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, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

.....*H. N. Ramkarran*.....

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.**