

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 96TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 2009
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

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

*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 (Absent – on
leave)**

***The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Absent – on leave)**

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)

***Non-Elected Minister**

****Elected Member from the United Force**

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. (Absent – on leave)

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)

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Ms. Vanessa Kisson, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

(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 2.24 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Agriculture:

The Annual Reports of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Inc., for the years 2007 and 2008.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

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

Amended Minutes of Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 9th July, 2009.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS –

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2009

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2009 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$247, 406, 429 for the period 2009-07-16 to 2009-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 395 (M102 Govt60) published on 2009-07-30)

(Paper presented on 2009-07-30)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2009 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$247, 406, 429 for the period 2009-07-16 to 2009-12-31.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2009

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2009 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$2,533,085,355 for the period ended 2009-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 396 (M103 Govt61) published on 2009-07-30)

(Paper presented on 2009-07-30)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2009 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$2,533,085,355 for the period ended 2009-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 1 FOR 2009) BILL 2009 –

Bill No. 33 of 2009

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2009) Bill No. 33 of 2009 to be introduced at that stage.

The Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2009) Bill No. 33 of 2009 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2009, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 4 - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (No. 2) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 32/2009
published on 2009-07-08

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act and the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act to extend and specify the meaning of property and increase the penalty for damage to property.

(Read a first time on 2009-07-09)

MOTION

ITEM 5 - LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Minister of Agriculture moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change has firmly established that concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are rising exponentially, leading to alarming levels of global warming and related sea level rise;

AND WHEREAS the cause of these phenomena is mainly anthropogenic;

AND WHEREAS if left unchecked, the effects of climate change can lead to marine inundation of coastal low lying areas, flooding from excessive rainfall, droughts, disruption of agriculture, food shortages, disease, population displacement and extinction of species;

AND WHEREAS several studies on the economics of climate change and its impact have concluded that the cost of inaction will in the long-term exceed the level of resources currently required for addressing these impacts;

AND WHEREAS the Conference of Parties in Copenhagen 2009 must reach an agreement that entails deep cuts in emissions, bold action on climate mitigation, and clear support for adaptation measures;

AND WHEREAS 20 percent of all green house gases results from deforestation and degradation;

AND WHEREAS a recent study done by the internationally reputable McKinsey Company has demonstrated that avoided deforestation represent a least cost solution for carbon abatement, lower than hybrid cars or wind power;

AND WHEREAS studies and analyses have confirmed that Guyana's forests could be deployed as mitigation against the adverse effects of climate change without either sacrificing our sovereignty or development prospects;

AND WHEREAS Guyana stands at the threshold of a great global opportunity to show the world how rainforest countries can use their rainforest to mitigate Climate Change and at the same time use it as the basis for a financial flow to provide adequate resources to pursue a low carbon development path with adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer as key elements;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has drafted a Low Carbon Development Strategy which is currently being discussed in a series of countrywide consultations,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly:

1. Welcomes the commitment to public consultations including the parliamentary parties to contribute to the finalization of the Strategy;
2. Recognizes the pioneering nature of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy; and

3. **Endorses Guyana's advocacy in the UNFCCC process for a new post 2012 Agreement that includes REDD, avoided deforestation and sustainable forest management, to be decided in Copenhagen in December, 2009 and support its use at international fora, including the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen.**

(Notice Paper No. 393 (M100 Govt58) published on 2009-07-08)

While Minister of Transport and Hydraulics was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.07 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Finance

Thereafter Minister of Agriculture replied.

The motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.04 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 6th August, 2009.



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

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

4th August, 2009.