

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 97TH 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, 6TH 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 (Absent)

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

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***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 (Absent – on leave)

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)

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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)

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)

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

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

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

4.

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 Kissoon, 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. (Absent)

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 2.38 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Local Government Commission) Bill 2009:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Local Government Commission Bill 2009 –
Bill No. 22 of 2009.

(Circulated)

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 57(2)**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 57(2) be, was and is deemed to have been suspended with effect from and including 30th July, 2009, and that the Second Reading and remaining stages of the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 21 of 2009, on the said 30th July, 2009, was duly passed in compliance with this Standing Order;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That suspension of the aforesaid Standing Order No. 57(2) remains in effect up to and including 6th August, 2009, to enable the Second Reading and remaining stages of the Local Government Commission Bill 2009 – Bill No. 22 of 2009, to be passed in compliance with this Standing Order.

(Notice Paper No. 399 (M106 Govt64) published on 2009-08-06)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 1 - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (No. 2) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 32/2009

published on 2009-07-08

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

7.

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)

The Minister of Home Affairs spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Administration of Justice (No. 2) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

MOTION

ITEM 2 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Members of the National Assembly of the Ninth Parliament of Guyana, at this Sitting of the Assembly note that July 26, 2009 marked the 56th Anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks in Cuba, which is regarded as the defining moment of the Cuban Revolution that triumphed on January 1, 1959;

AND WHEREAS over those five decades the Government and people of Cuba have made tremendous strides in the development of their country despite the imposition of the economic embargo by successive United States Administrations;

AND WHEREAS the Government and people of Cuba in spite of daunting constraints have maintained international solidarity with developing countries by continuing to offer development assistance to countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Cuba has rendered consistently valuable assistance to the Government and people of Guyana, over these five decades and more especially since the inception of diplomatic ties with Guyana in 1972, particularly in the areas of tertiary training in education specifically in health; providing highly qualified health care practitioners for over 30 years to Guyana's health care system; the inclusion in "Operation Miracle" of thousands of Guyanese who have benefited from eye surgery and treatment in Cuba; the extension of assistance of medical academic professionals and provision of educational equipment for the UG School of Medicine, and, the provision of expertise, human and technical, and major material resources that have allowed the construction, equipping and operationalising of the four regional hospitals for the benefit of Guyanese;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has consistently supported calls and actions at all regional and international fora for the cessation of the United States economic embargo on Cuba;

AND WHEREAS in recognition of the recent reversal of the 1962 Resolution which had expelled Cuba from the Organisation of American States (OAS), note is taken that the Government of Guyana continues to support the full involvement of Cuba in the activities of the community of nations at both the hemispheric and international levels;

AND WHEREAS Guyana and Cuba share common interests and concerns primarily in the areas of sustainable development, economic equity and social justice, equitable trade relations and the concern for the vulnerability of the smaller economies;

AND WHEREAS Guyana's call for a new Global Human adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2000 is similar to those adumbrated by the Government of Cuba towards equity and justice;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly conveys to the Cuban Government and people congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Revolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly on behalf of the Guyanese people conveys its deepest appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba for their sacrifice and unstinting support given to our Government, people and country over decades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, while being heartened by statements made by President Barack Obama, encourages the United States administration to advance efforts to improve and restore normal relations with Cuba.

(Notice Paper No. 397 (M104 Govt62) published on 2009-07-30)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Public Service

The Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Thereafter the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS – Second Reading,

ITEM 3 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BILL 2009 – Bill No. 22/2009

published 2009-06-03

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 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.

(Read a first time 2009-06-04)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-04)

Ms Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 32 were passed as amended.

The Schedule was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Government Commission Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS**MOTION**

The Speaker's consent was given in accordance with Standing Orders No. 28(2) to move the following motion:

THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 2004 REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication, (Chairman of Special Select Committee on the Conclusion of the Consideration of the 2004 Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission) moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. 33 dated 26th July, 2007 the National Assembly appointed a Special Select Committee to conclude the examination of the Report and recommendations of the Disciplined Forces Commission and report to the National Assembly six months from its establishment;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly stipulated that the Special Select Committee of the Ninth Parliament takes cognizance of the work done by the Special Select Committee of the Eighth Parliament that considered the Report and its recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee was required to presents its Final Report to the National Assembly six months from the date of establishment;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee had requested two extensions of the deadline for the submission of its final Report to 6th August, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee was unable to complete its work by the deadline stipulated;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves a further extension of the deadline for the submission of its Report to 30th November, 2009.


(Notice Paper No. 398 (M105 Govt63) published on 2009-08-04)

The motion was put and carried.

The Speaker wished all Members of the National Assembly, the Press and Staff of the Parliament Office a happy and restful Recess period.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.09 p.m., the Speaker adjourned the Assembly to a date to be fixed.


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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

6th August, 2009.