

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 99TH 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, 22ND OCTOBER, 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 – performing the functions of the Office of the President)

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent – on leave)

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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. (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)

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.

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.

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

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

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 2.19 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE

Dr. Ashni Singh moved a motion of privilege with respect to a statement made by Ms Deborah Backer during the sitting of 15th October, 2009, about soldiers going to Trinidad to torture people.

The Speaker informed the Assembly that a prima facia case had been made out against Mrs. Deborah Backer. Thereafter, the matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - FUGITIVE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 34/2009 published on 2009-10-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fugitive Offenders Act 1988.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-15)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Bernard DeSantos

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 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Fugitive Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 35/2009 published on 2009-10-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Factories Act 1998.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-15)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.18 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj

Mr. Mohamed Khan

8.

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

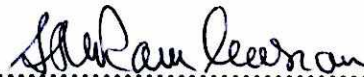
Clause 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the Rice Factories (Amendment) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.08 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 29th October, 2009.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

22nd October, 2009.