

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 101ST 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, 12TH NOVEMBER, 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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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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

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

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 – Pomereroon/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 – Pomereroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water (Absent – on leave)

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

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**

4.

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)

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 Kisson, 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. (Absent – on leave)

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

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications:

The Guyana Power and Light Company Annual Reports for the years 2007 and 2008.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Audited Accounts of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

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(ii) Audited Accounts of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance for the period 1st January, 2009 to 22nd July, 2009.

(Circulated)

(iii) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 1996.

(Circulated)

(iv) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 1997.

(Circulated)

(v) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 1998.

(Circulated)

(vi) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 1999.

(Circulated)

(vii) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

(viii) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2001.

(Circulated)

(ix) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2002.

(Circulated)

(x) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2003.

(Circulated)

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(xi) Property Holdings Inc. Annual Report from Incorporation on 5th October, 1999 to 31st December, 2000.

(Circulated)

(xii) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2001.

(Circulated)

(xiii) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2002.

(Circulated)

(xiv) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2003.

(Circulated)

(xv) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2004.

(Circulated)

(xvi) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

(xvii) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2006.

(Circulated)

(xviii) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2007.

(Circulated)

(xix) Property Holdings Inc., Annual Report for the year 2008.

(Circulated)

(xx) Mid-Year Report 2009.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral reply

1. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF – PARLIAMENT OFFICE

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip asked the Minister of the Public Service the following questions:

- (i) *Could the Honourable Minister inform this House as to what are the procedures for the employment of staff contracted and those on the fixed establishment for the Parliament Office?
- (ii) * Could the Honourable Minister inform this House if the Public Service Ministry hires, promotes and disciplines the staff of the Parliament Office?

(Notice Paper No. 405 (Q290 PPP/C Private Member No. 15) published on 2009-10-12)

Thereafter the Minister of the Public Service replied.

Mr. Winston Murray asked the Minister of the Public Service supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of the Public Service replied.

For Written reply

2. BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

- 1. How many requests have been made annually to the General Registrar's Office for birth certificates over the last three years respectively and how many have been issued per region?

2. In view of the constant complaints of Indigenous communities about difficulties being experienced in acquiring birth certificates and consequently denial of their right to be registered as an elector, what arrangements is the Honourable Minister prepared to put in place to allow them to (a) acquire birth certificates and (b) be registered as an elector?

(Notice Paper No. 406 (Q300 Opp275) published on 2009-10-16)

Answers

1. The Honourable Minister wishes to inform the National Assembly that for the last three years, 2006, 2007 and 2008 the following applications were received and birth certificates issued:

Year	Applications Received	Birth Certificate Issued
2006	79,286	198,000
2007	69,419	208,000
2008	109,449	254,000

Record keeping at the General Registrar's Office was not done by regions for the requested years but has since been implemented from September, 2009.

2. (i) The General Registrar's Office made visits to regions 1, 7, 8, 9, parts of 2 & 10 to educate villagers on the importance of Birth Registration and the acquisition of Birth Certificates.
- (ii) Training of Community Development Officers in the said regions on the requirements of Late Registration to ensure the birth registration of adults.
- (iii) Appointing and training of Community Health Workers in Birth Registration to ensure all children are registered at birth.

- (iv) Community Development Officers in each region, where the Postal Service is not available, ensure applications are brought out and Certificates taken in.
- (v) Where Postal Services are available applications are accepted and sent to the General Registrar's Office, certificates are issued and returned by this service.
- (vi) Church leaders and Health workers are also very active in these regions in assisting with Late Registrations and ensuring applications are brought out and Certificates taken back.
- (vii) The General Registrar's Office will continue to engage the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to ensure Birth Certificates are available to the region aforementioned.
- (viii) The General Registrar's Office conscious of the importance of having residents registered and in possession of Birth Certificates has dedicated a section to the Late Registration of residents in regions 1, 7, 8 and 9.

The General Registrar's Office with the assistance of the Community Development Officers, Community Health Workers, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and Church Leaders will continue to offer Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 this service.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-

Proposed investigation of the torture of a fourteen year old by ranks of the Guyana Police Force

At the request of Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition to move the adjournment of the Assembly on a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the proposed investigation of the torture of a 14 year old by ranks of the Guyana Police Force as announced by the President of Guyana, was disallowed by the Speaker.

At 2.28 p.m., the Members of the People's National Congress Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 –

Bill No. 39/2009

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - CREDIT REPORTING BILL 2009 – Bill No. 37/2009 published on 2009-10-22

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish a credit reporting industry with the aim of enabling more reliable, competitive, and responsible credit lending while protecting borrowers' rights.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-29)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Labour

12.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Thereafter the Credit Reporting Bill 2009 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

ITEM 2 - PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 38/2009 published on 2009-10-29

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the regulation and control of private security services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-29)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.11 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.17 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Everall Franklin

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

The Title to the Private Security Services (Regulation) Bill 2009

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Delete the word “(Regulation)” from the Title to the Bill

The Title of the Bill was then passed as amended.

Clause 1

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Delete the word “(Regulation)” in line 2.”

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 2 and 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“Re-number as clause 4(1)

Insert the following as Clause 4(2) –

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act a licence shall not be approved, issued, cancelled, revoked or suspended without the prior express written approval of the Minister who shall be the Licensing Authority under this Act.””

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Clause 6

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Clause 6(2):

“For the words “body or association of persons” substitute the word “company”.

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 7 to 24 were passed as printed.

The Schedule

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Section B, paragraph 10:

“Delete the word “or the head of the incorporated association”.

The Schedule was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Private Security Services Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA MANUAL OF RULES, PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS OF COMMITTEES

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Parliament of Guyana Manual of Rules of Procedures and Operations of Committees) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee to make recommendations on the Parliament of Guyana Manual of Rules, Procedures and Operations of Committees be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 407 (M110 Govt.68) published on 2009-10-28)

Ms Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.33 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 19th November, 2009.


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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

12th November, 2009.