

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 104<sup>TH</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, 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 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 (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

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, 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 – 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 (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. (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.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.



Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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

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 2.27 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Auditor General of Guyana performance/value for money Audit Report on the “Assessment of the living conditions of the residents of the Palms Geriatric Institution”.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Report of the Directors of the Dependants’ Pension Fund for the year 2004.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Report of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2005.  
(Circulated)
- (iii) Financial Paper No. 3/2009 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$2,240,280,499 for the period 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.  
(Circulated)
- (iv) Financial Paper No. 4/2009 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totaling \$2,436,927,906 for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.  
(Circulated)

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### **Presentation and First Reading**

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 47/2009**

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 Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 45/2009**  
**published on 2009-11-26**

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 Legal Practitioners Act.

**(Read a first time on 2009-11-26)**

**ITEM 2 - THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BILL 2009 – Bill**  
**No. 46/2009 published on 2009-11-26**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the scheme relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth; and to provide for mutual assistance in criminal matters between Guyana and countries that have a treaty with Guyana concerning such assistance.

**(Read a first time on 2009-11-26)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms Gail Teixeira

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

8.

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 25** were passed as printed.

**Clause 26**

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

Clause 26(8):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 26 was then passed as amended.

**Clauses 27 and 28** were passed as printed.

**Clause 29**

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

Clause 29(2):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 29(6):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 29(6)(b):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 29 was then passed as amended.



Clauses 30 to 33 were passed as printed.

**Clause 34**

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

Clause 34(2):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 34(7):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 34 was then passed as amended.

**Clause 35**

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

Clause 35(2):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 35(3):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 35 was then passed as amended.

**Clause 36**

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

Clause 36(1):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 36 was then passed as amended.

Clause 37 was passed as printed.

**Clause 38**

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

Clause 38(2):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 38(4):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 38 was then passed as amended.

**Clause 39**

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

Clause 39(1):-

“Delete the words ‘Attorney General’ and insert the words ‘Central Authority’”

Clause 39 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 40 to 44 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**AJOURNMENT**

At 3.50 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, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.



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

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2009.**