

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 105<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, 10<sup>TH</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

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

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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)

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.

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) (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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 (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**

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.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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)

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 Kissoon, 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.

5.

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-**

By the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications:

A Low Carbon Development Strategy – Transforming Guyana’s Economy while Combating Climate Change.

(Circulated)

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**GUYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL 2009 – Bill No. 49/2009**

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

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6.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to promote greater efficiency in the livestock and livestock product industry and to provide enhanced services in livestock husbandry, livestock health and research and to establish the Guyana Livestock Development Authority so as to make provision for effective administration and regulation of trade, commerce and export of livestock or livestock products and for matters related or incidental.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2009**

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. 3/2009 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,240,280,499 – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

**(Notice Paper No. 409 (M112 Govt 69) published on 2009-12-03)**

**(Paper presented on 2009-12-03)**

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

7.

**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. 3/2009 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,240,280,499 – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

**ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2009**

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. 4/2009 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$2,436,927,906 for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

**(Notice Paper No. 410 (M113 Govt 70) published on 2009-12-03)**

**(Paper presented on 2009-12-03)**

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. 4/2009 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$2,436,927,906 for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

**BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS****ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 FOR 2009) BILL 2009 –****Bill No. 48 of 2009 published on 2009-12-03**

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2009) Bill No. 48 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. 2 for 2009) Bill No. 48 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.18 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

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

#### **ITEM 4 - GUYANA'S MODEL OF A LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT PATH**

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications the consideration of the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS international acceptance of scientific evidence that high concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are rising exponentially, leading to alarming levels of global warming and related sea level rise is no longer a matter of dispute;

AND WHEREAS the causes of these phenomena are also now accepted at all international fora and thus the time as no other is for global concerted action to reverse these dangerous and planet and life threatening phenonmena;

AND WHEREAS the 54 Commonwealth Heads of Government arrived at the Port of Spain Consensus and Declaration on Climate Change which it is taking to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in Copenhagen 2009 in order to further the efforts to reach an agreement that will require commitments to deep cut in emissions by the main contributors to carbon emissions and financial and technical support to the most vulnerable nations in the world in the interim;

AND WHEREAS Guyana's Low Carbon development Strategy demonstrates 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 finance a low carbon development path, with adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer as key elements;

AND WHEREAS Guyana's innovative low carbon development path was scrutinized through a consultative process which involved more than 144 communities, particularly in Amerindian communities as well as representatives of various sector groups including forestry, mining, women, youth, academic, and labour;

AND WHEREAS this process was managed and coordinated by a broad-based multi-sectoral steering committee comprising representatives of the National Tousehaos' Council, Amerindian NGOs, forestry and mining groups, the private sector, organised labour, and international monitors under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President;

AND WHEREAS the international community has applauded Guyana for its consultation process and efforts to pursue a low carbon development pathway with examples being the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the unique Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Norway;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly:

1. Recognises the efforts to build national consensus and mobilize the international community support for Climate Change and Guyana's model of a Low Carbon Development Pathway;
2. Supports Guyana's model of a Low carbon development pathway tabled in the House as the revised Low Carbon Development Strategy;
3. Endorses Guyana's commitment to a new agreement at the upcoming UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, December 2009 which will bind countries to carbon reductions and release financial support to mitigate the repercussions of climate change on vulnerable countries; and
4. Lends unequivocal support to the Guyana delegation at the UNFCC Conference in struggling/lobbying for a post 2012 agreement on Climate Change in the interest of the world and Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No. 411 (M114 Govt 71) published on 2009-12-04)**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 5 - 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 6 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2009 –**  
**Bill No. 47/2009 published on 2009-12-03**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of Councilors of local democratic organs.

**(Read a first time on 2009-12-03)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Ms Bibi Shaddick

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as printed.

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 7 - THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 2004 REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. 33 dated 26<sup>th</sup> 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 present its Final Report to the National Assembly six months from the date of establishment;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee has requested three extensions of the deadline for the submission of its final Report to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 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 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 412 (M115 Govt 72) published on 2009-12-09)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.36 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly as adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 17<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.**

**10<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.**