

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 106<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, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2009**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (40)**

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (39)**

(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 Office of the President)

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

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. 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.

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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

\*\*\*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.

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)

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.

5.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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

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 2.14 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(i) **Death of Dr. Desrey Fox, Minister in the Ministry of Education**

The Speaker informed Members of the tragic death of Dr. Desrey Clementine Caesar Fox, a Minister of the Government.

The Speaker stated Dr. Fox was declared a Member of the National Assembly of the Ninth Parliament of Guyana with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, following the General and Regional Elections which were held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

Dr. Fox was appointed Minister in the Ministry of Education on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, and held that position until her death on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

(ii) **Death of Mr. Brindley Horatio Benn**

The Speaker also announced the passing of Mr. Brindley Horatio Benn on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009, after a brief illness.

Mr. Benn first became a Legislator on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1957 and ceased to be a Member on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1968. During that period Mr. Benn held the post of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Minister of Agriculture.

Following the General and Regional Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1992, the Elections Commission declared Mr. Benn on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1992, to have become and he again became a Member of the National Assembly from that date.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1993, Mr. Benn resigned his seat as a Member of the National Assembly, consequent upon his appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, a position he held from 1993 to 1998.

The last public offices he held were Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Chairman of the Guyana Lotteries Commission and a Member of the Appeals Board of the Guyana Revenue Authority.

(iii) **Death of Mr. Nasir Ally, Former Member of Parliament**

The Speaker stated that it was with deep regret that he had learnt of the passing of Mr. Nasir Ally, a former Member of Parliament.

Following the General and Regional Elections on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2001, Mr. Ally was declared by the Elections Commission to become an elected Member of the National Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2001, of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana.

Mr. Ally served as a Member of Parliament until the Parliament was dissolved on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2006.

Thereafter, the Speaker and Members of the Assembly stood and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Dr. Desrey Clementine Caesar Fox, Mr. Brindley Horatio Benn and Mr. Nasir Ally.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2009 – Order No. 28 of 2009.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2009 – Order No. 29 of 2009.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Sales Contract No. SA 133989 between Petroleo, S.A (PDVSA) and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) signed on January 1, 2008 to supply the Government of Guyana with crude oil, refined oil products and LPG of up to 5,200 barrels per day on an annual basis.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Sales Contract No. SA 136734 between Petroleo, S.A (PDVSA) and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) signed on January 1, 2009 to supply the Government of Guyana with crude oil, refined oil products and LPG of up to 5,200 barrels per day on an annual basis.

(Circulated)

- (v) Loan Contract No. 2102/BL-GY between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on April 17, 2009 for US\$27,900,000 for the Second Low-Income Settlement Program.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Amendatory Agreement No. 1730/SF-GY (Amendment No. 1) between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on November 20, 2009 for the Georgetown Solid Waste Management Program (GSWMP).

(Circulated)

- (vii) Loan Contract No. 2235/BL-GY between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on November 23, 2009 for US\$5,000,000 for the Financial Sector Reform Program II.

(Circulated)

- (viii) Loan Agreement No. 18/SFG-GUY between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana signed on April 27, 2009 for US\$7,500,000 for the Enhancement of the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Project.

(Circulated)



**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection, held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****Power Outages by the Guyana Power and Light Company**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition asked the Prime Minister the following questions:

- (a) Would the Prime Minister inform the National Assembly why his previous commitment that power outages by GPL would end on November 5, 2009 has not materialized?
- (b) Is it true that these Wartsilla generators are not new but are second hand machinery bought from Suriname that was lying idle for several years?
- (c) When would the Electricity situation return?

Due to the absence of the Prime Minister at that sitting, the questions were not answered.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

- (i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION****ITEM 1 GUYANA'S MODEL OF A LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT PATH**

The Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, moved the following motion:

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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)**

While Mr. Winston Murray was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.03 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.00 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Winston Murray continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Finance

Mr. Everall Franklin

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.52 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.25 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture replied.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

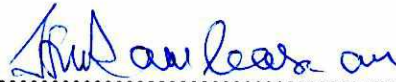
At 10.00 p.m., the Minister of Home Affairs moved a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1) to allow the Assembly to conclude the debate on the motion.

The Minister of Agriculture continued and concluded his reply.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.24 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 21<sup>st</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.**

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