

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 117<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**  
**(2006-2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2010**  
**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

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)

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.

Mr. Lloyd J. Pereira, J.P., 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.

\*\*\*Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

#### 4.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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)

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)

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P.

5.

**(ii) Alliance for Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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 2.07 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Report emanating from the Kaieteur News – “Parliamentary Records Tampered with – Ramjattan”**

The Honourable Speaker made the following announcement:

“There was a report on page 2 of today’s Kaieteur News under the headline “Parliamentary Records Tampered with – Ramjattan.”

Alliance For Change (AFC) Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan is charging that the Parliamentary Hansard has been tampered with. Ramjattan was referring to the session that relates to the controversial \$4 billion allocation which was allotted to the Housing Ministry. The process was being questioned by the AFC Chairman.

Ramjattan said that the answer which was given by Minister of Housing and Water Irfan Ali to a question asked by Alliance For Change Co-Vice Chairperson Sheila Holder during the January 11 sitting of the House, was not accurate. Ramjattan was at the time referring to Financial Paper No. 6 which was tabled in the House earlier this year and involved billions of dollars which Ramjattan is charging was not spent for the housing sector, according to the Laws of Guyana.

According to Ramjattan, he was reliably informed that the Hansard – which is the verbatim record of the National Assembly – has been tampered with, and he has therefore requested that the Speaker of the House launch an investigation into the alleged tampering.

“What I feared will happen with the Hansard when it was not forthcoming in the usual seven to 10 days has actually happened now that it has taken some 40 days for compilation,” Ramjattan said.

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He added that it was queried in the House from the Housing Minister whether the money was already spent and he answered in the negative, but the expenditure for 2010 clearly states that the money has already been spent and as such, the Housing Minister was in breach of the Laws of Guyana.

Ramjattan recently told this newspaper that what is now recorded in the Hansard and attributed to the Housing Minister is “we are ready.” This he stressed should have read, “We have spent it already.”

Ramjattan told this newspaper that he intended to use the Hansard of the National Assembly to file accurate statements against the duo with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Honourable Member Khemraj Ramjattan reported his suspicion to me on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010, whereupon, on the evening of the same day, I requested the Clerk to investigate.

I would have expected that the Honourable Member would have awaited the results of the investigation before making a public allegation. He chose not to do so.

I confirm that I have listened to the audio recording and it confirms the Hansard record of the Honourable Member Irfan Ali’s statement that “We are ready.”

I now ask that the tape be played.

**(Tape played)**

As you can hear, the tape confirms the Hansard record.

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I have requested the Clerk to ensure that the Hon. Member Khemraj Ramjattan receives a copy of the audio recording and look forward for appropriate comments in this Assembly tomorrow after the Hon. Member has had an opportunity to study it.

I will ask the Clerk to forward the written transcript of the Hansard, the audio transcript and a copy of this announcement to the Kaieteur News.

I expect the Kaieteur News to also make an appropriate statement.

I wish to add finally that the staff of the Parliament Office who have shown dedication, commitment and integrity to this House far beyond the call of duty since I have served as your Speaker are deeply pained at the Honourable Member's allegation.

I expect that what the Honourable Member and the Kaieteur News have to say would go some way to alleviating their distress."

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

#### **MOTION**

#### **BUDGET SPEECH 2010 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2010**

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2010.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2010-02-08)**

#### **In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-



**01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Current Expenditure**

- 011 Administrative Services
- 012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
- 014 Public Policy and Planning

**Capital Expenditure**

- 011 Head Office Administration

**09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

- 091 Public and Police Service Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

- 091 Public and Police Service Commission

**10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Capital Expenditure**

- 101 Teaching Service Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

- 101 Teaching Service Commission

**11 – GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

- 111 Elections Commission
- 112 Elections Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

- 111 – Elections Commission

**53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE**

**Current Expenditure**

- 531 Defence Headquarters

**Capital Expenditure**

- 531 – Defence Headquarters

**57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

**Current Expenditure**

571 Ombudsman

**58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

**Current Expenditure**

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**Capital Expenditure**

581 – Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**Current Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Capital Expenditure**

021 – Prime Minister's Secretariat

**07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

**Current Expenditure**

071 National Assembly

**Capital Expenditure**

071 – National Assembly

**31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Current Expenditure**

311 Ministry Administration

312 Public Works

313 Communication and Transport

**Assembly resumed**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.37 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.32 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

**31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Capital Expenditure**

- 311 Ministry Administration
- 312 Public Works
- 313 Communication and Transport

**04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

- 041 Ministry Administration
- 042 Foreign Relations
- 043 Foreign Trade & International Co-operation

**Capital Expenditure**

- 041 Ministry Administration
- 042 Foreign Relations

**44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

**Current Expenditure**

- 441 Ministry Administration
- 442 Culture
- 443 Youth
- 444 Sports

**Capital Expenditure**

- 441 Ministry Administration
- 442 Culture
- 443 Youth
- 444 Sports

**41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

- 411 Main Office
- 412 National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision
- 413 Ministry Administration
- 414 Training and Development
- 415 Education Delivery

**Capital Expenditure**

- 411 Main Office
- 412 National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision
- 413 Ministry Administration
- 414 Training and Development
- 415 Education Delivery

**Assembly resumed**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8.02 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, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

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

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.**

