

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 122<sup>ND</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 THURSDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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

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 (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 (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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.

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

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**\*\*\*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. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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)

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Absent)

5.

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

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent)

**(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 2.15 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

6.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008.

(Circulated)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

(1) By the Minister of Health (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Allied Health Professions Bill 2009):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Allied Health Professions Bill 2009 – Bill No. 15 of 2009.

(Circulated)

(2) Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., on behalf of Ms Amna Ally, (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services), presented the following report:

Fourth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services.

(Circulated)

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**POUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 4 /2010 published on 2010-03-26**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pounds Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES)**

**BILL 2009 – Bill No. 16/2009 published on 2009-04-30**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for benefits and other facilities to the Leader of the Opposition.

**(Read a first time on 2009-04-30)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Mr. Raphael Trotman

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clause 1**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

Clause 1:

remove '2009' and replace with '2010.'

8.

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

### **Clause 2**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

#### Clause 2(c):

Insert immediately after the word ‘residence’ the following words ‘and at the office of the Leader of the Opposition to be provided by the Guyana Police Force’;

#### Clause 2(d):

Delete the words ‘a secretary or an executive secretary, a chauffeur’ and replace by inserting after the words ‘the services of’ the words ‘a research assistant, an executive assistant/secretary, a clerical/office assistant, a chauffeur, a personal security officer, a gardener and two domestic servants’

#### Clause 2(e):

Delete this clause and insert a new Clause 2(e) with the words ‘salary, vacation allowance, and parliamentary benefits equivalent to those of a Cabinet Minister.’

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

### **Clause 3**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendments, which were put and carried

#### Clause 3(2):

Delete this clause.

#### Clause 3(3):

Clause 3(3) to be renumbered 3(2).



9.

Clause 3 was then passed as amended.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Leader of the Opposition (Benefits and Facilities) Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

At 2.54 p.m., some Members of the People's National Congress Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

**ITEM 2 - ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS BILL 2009 – Bill No. 15/2009 published on 2009-04-30**

The Minister of Health moved the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee for consideration and report:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for registration of members of allied health professions supplementary to the medical profession, regulation of practice of allied health professions and allied health services, to provide for maintenance of professional standards for allied health professions and health services and to make provisions for training of members of those professions and services and for related purposes.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-04-30)**

At 3.43 p.m., the Members of the People's National Congress Reform returned to the Chamber.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. John Austin

Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo

The Minister in the Ministry of Health

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

10.

Thereafter the Minister of Health 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 37** were passed as amended.

**The Schedules** were passed as amended.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Health, the Allied Health Professions Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**(iii)COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL FOOD PRICE INCREASES**

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Impact of Global Food Price Increases be adopted.

**(Notice Paper No. 455 (M130 Govt 82) published on 2010-03-17)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.06 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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

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

**8<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.**