

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 139th 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, 30th DECEMBER, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
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 (41)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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)

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 – 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 (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent – on leave)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

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

Members of the Opposition (27)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (21)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

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

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***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

4.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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)

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.

(There is one vacancy)

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5.

(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 – on leave)

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

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

Ms Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.13 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

Document relating to the work of the National Assembly for the year 2010

The Speaker of the National Assembly made the following statement:

“NUMBER OF SITTINGS

There were thirty one **(31)** sittings of the National Assembly for the year 2010.

Two **(2)** new members took the oath of office during the year.

6.

PAPERS AND REPORTS LAID

Sixty eight **(68)** Papers and Reports were laid in the Assembly for the year 2010. These included Annual Reports, Loan Agreements and other Policy Documents submitted by various Government Ministries and Departments.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Seventeen **(17)** reports, including periodic reports, were submitted to the National Assembly by Parliamentary Committees.

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

One (1) oral question without notice was answered.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Forty four **(44)** questions (33 written and 11 oral) were answered in the Assembly during 2010. All questions submitted to the Assembly were answered.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Ministers of the Government made nine (9) statements to the Assembly during the year.

MOTIONS

Forty Motions were approved by the National Assembly during 2010, comprising of fourteen **(14)** Government Motions, three **(3)** Opposition Motions and nineteen **(19)** Committee Motions.

Four Motions were not proceeded with and remain outstanding on the Order Paper.

7.

Committals to Committees

For the period under review, one (1) motion, that is, Criminal Responsibilities of HIV/AIDS Infected Individuals, was referred to a Special Select Committee.

BILLS PASSED

Twenty nine (29) bills were passed by the National Assembly for the year, seven (7) were considered by Special Select Committees, and five (5) bills are still under consideration by Committees.

All twenty nine (29) bills passed by the Assembly were assented to by His Excellency the President.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Twenty five (25) bills were introduced in the National Assembly during the period under review.

COMMITTEES

One hundred and fifteen (115) committee meetings were held as follows:-

	<u>No. of Meetings Held</u>
1. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services	10
2. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources	7
3. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services	10
4. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations	6
5. Parliamentary Management Committee	3
6. Committee on Appointments	11

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8.

7. Committee of Selection	4
8. Public Accounts Committee	18
9. Parliamentary Standing Committee and Constitution Reform	Nil
10. Committee of Privileges	2
11. Standing Orders Committee	Nil
12. Statutory Instruments Committee	Nil
13. Assembly Committee	Nil
14. Special Select Committee on the Conclusion of the Consideration of the 2004 Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission	9
15. Special Select Committee on the Court of Appeal(Amendment) Bill 2008 – Bill No. 12 Of 2008	4
16. Special Select Committee on Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project	Nil
17. Special Select Committee on the Report of the Draft Standing Orders	1
18. Special Select Committee on Maritime Zones Bill 2009 – Bill No. 36 of 2009	11
19. Special Select Committee on Credit Reporting Bill 2009 – Bill No. 37 of 2009	3
20. Special Select Committee on Persons With Disabilities Bill 2009 – Bill No. 44/2009	4
21. Special Select Committee on Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 45/2009	4
22. Special Select Committee on the Allied Health Profession Bill No. 15/2009	4

23. Special Select Committee on the:	
(1) The Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill – Bill No.29 of 2009	2
(2) The Childcare and Development Services Bill 2009 - Bill No.31 of 2009	Nil
24. Special Select Committee on the Sexual Offences Bill 2009 – Bill No. 30 of 2009	2
25. Special Select Committee on the Fiscal Transfer Bill 2009 – Bill No. 25/2009	Nil
26. Special Select Committee on the Municipal and Districts Councils (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 26/2009	Nil
27. Special Select Committee on the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 23/2009	Nil
28. Special Select Committee on Criminal Responsibilities of HIV/AIDS Infected Individuals	Nil
29. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Oversight of the Security Sector	1
30. Special Select Committee on the Impact of Global Food Rice Increases	Nil

Presentations

Eight **(8)** presentations were made by senior Government Officials before the following Committees:-

- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources

Establishment of Commissions

As a result of the work of the Committee on Appointments the following Service Commissions were established:

10.

1. The Rights of the Child Commission
2. The Women and Gender Equality Commission
3. The Indigenous Peoples' Commission"

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Mandela Dumpsite

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following questions:

“The Mandela Dumpsite is being used beyond its original design and has been over utilized to the extent that it has encroached on the cemetery. Garbage is just a few feet away from Cemetery Road. The stench, rodents, traffic and health hazards and acrid smell of smoke, which plays havoc with your eyes and lungs and can lead possibly to all kinds of respiratory diseases, are unbearable to the residents of the surrounding communities.

We are a day shy of ending the year 2010 in which you, Honourable Minister, told this Honourable House that the Mandela Dump site would be closed and the new site in Region #3 / Region #4 would be in operation.

Could the Honourable Minister inform this House and the residents of the communities surrounding the Mandela Dump site, when will this eye sore of a dump site be ended so that residents can get some relief, and how soon will the new site become operational?

Could the Honourable Minister also say whether he has consulted with the Minister of Health to provide any emergency and / or preventative health services to the residents of the areas who have been suffering from the health hazards from this dump site? If so, could you elaborate on this service?”

11.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

**PENSIONS (PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL OFFICES)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 26/2010**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/2010

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. 5/2010 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$3,000,000,000 for the period ending 2010-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 508 (M164 Govt 100) published on 2010-12-23)

(Paper presented on 2010-12-23)

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. 5/2010 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$3,000,000,000 for the period ending 2010-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 3 FOR 2010) BILL 2010 –

Bill No. 25 of 2010 published on 2010-12-23

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. 3 for 2010) Bill No. 25 of 2010 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. 3 for 2010) Bill No. 25 of 2010 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 31st December, 2010, 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.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 3 - DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 23/2010 published on 2010-12-16

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Defence Act.
(Read a first time on 2010-12-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.02 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.03 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2010.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Defence (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 4 - NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
INSTITUTE BILL 2010- NO. 24/2010 published on 2010-12-21**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to promote greater efficiency in the crops and agricultural product industry, to provide enhanced services in Agricultural Research and Extension and Crop Protection and to establish the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, so as to make provision for effective administration and regulation of trade, commerce and export of crops and agricultural products and for matters related or incidental.

(Read a first time on 2010-12-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Mervyn Williams

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of the Public Service

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture 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 35 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

NEW YEARS GREETINGS

The Speaker extended New Years Greetings to Members of the National Assembly, staff of the Parliament Office, Media and the Caterers. Mrs. Clarissa Riehl and the Prime Minister joined the Speaker in extending New Years Greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.40 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, 6th January, 2011.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

30th December, 2010.