

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 149TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2011) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2011
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
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)

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 (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 (Absent – on leave)

***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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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 (28)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent – on leave)

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 – on leave)

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) (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)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

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. (Absent)

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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

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 2.04 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MOTION

ITEM 1 - BUDGET SPEECH 2011 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2011

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2011.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2011-01-17)

6.

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-

51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force
- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Office

Capital Expenditure

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force
- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Office

52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

- 521 Main Office
- 522 Ministry Administration
- 523 Attorney General's Chambers
- 524 State Solicitor
- 525 Deeds Registry

Capital Expenditure

- 521 Main Office
- 522 Ministry Administration

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- 523 Attorney General's Chambers
- 524 State Solicitor
- 525 Deeds Registry

55 - SUPREME COURT

Current Expenditure

- 551 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 552 Magistracy

Capital Expenditure

- 551 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 552 Magistrates' Department

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Current Expenditure

- 561 Public Prosecutions

Capital Expenditure

- 561 Public Prosecutions

14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

Current Expenditure

- 141 Public Service Management

Capital Expenditure

- 141 Public Service Management

23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Current Expenditure

- 231 Main Office
- 232 Ministry Administration
- 233 Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs

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Capital Expenditure

- 231 Main Office
- 232 Ministry Administration
- 233 Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN

AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

- 161 Amerindian Development

Capital Expenditure

- 161 Amerindian Development

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

15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE &

INTERNATIONAL

CO-OPERATION

Capital Expenditure

- 151 Foreign Trade, International Co-operation

03 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Current Expenditure

- 031 Ministry Administration
- 032 Government Accounting Administration

Capital Expenditure

031 Ministry Administration

032 Government Accounting Administration

Assembly resumed

The Minister of Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2011 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2011 was put and carried.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 2011 – Bill No. 1/2011 published on 2011-01-18

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Order Nos. 13 and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2011 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

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, 2011, 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.

10.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.59 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTIO OF SITTING

At 5.58 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTIOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER
2011 – NO. 1 OF 2011**

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirms the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 2011 – No. 1 of 2011, which was made on 14th January, 2011, under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 15th January, 2011.

(Notice Paper No. 511 (M167 Govt 103) published on 2011-01-25)

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS – Second Readings

**ITEM 4 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 2/2011
published on 2011-01-19**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act and the Corporation Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2011-01-24)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence spoke to the motion.

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

Clauses 1 to 5 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SINCERE THANKS

The Speaker thanked Members of the Assembly, the staff of the Parliament Office and the press for their hard and dedicated work during the 2011 Budget Debate and consideration of the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education, 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.

3rd February, 2011.