

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 151ST 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, 10TH MARCH, 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

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 (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Agriculture

***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. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

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 (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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

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)

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. (Absent)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

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)

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.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

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

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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 2.10 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By the Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009 – Bill No. 29/2009.

(Circulated)

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6.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - TITLE TO LAND (PRESCRIPTION AND LIMITATION) (AMENDMENT)

BILL 2011 – Bill No. 3/2011 published on 2011-02-25

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) Act.

(Read a first time on 2011-03-03)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

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 to 4 were passed as printed.

7.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.45p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

ITEM 2 - CUSTODY, CONTACT, GUARDIANSHIP AND MAINTENANCE BILL 2009

-Bill No. 29/2009 published on 2009-06-25

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009) 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 the granting of custody, contact, guardianship and maintenance rights with respect to children and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-25)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Kwame Gilbert

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

8.

Thereafter the Minister of Human Services and Social Security 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 was passed as printed.

Clauses 2 to 5 were passed as amended.

Clauses 6 and 7 were passed as printed.

Clause 8 was passed as amended.

Clause 9 was passed as printed.

Clause 10 was passed as amended.

Clause 11 was passed as printed.

Clauses 12 to 14 were passed as amended.

Clauses 15 and 16 were passed as printed.

Clause 17 was passed as amended.

Clauses 18 to 24 were passed as printed.

Clause 25 was passed as amended.

Clauses 26 to 32 were passed as printed.

Clause 33 was passed as amended.

Clauses 34 to 37 were passed as printed.

Clause 38 was passed as amended.

Clauses 39 to 43 were passed as printed.

Clause 44 was passed as amended.

Clause 45 was passed as printed.

Clauses 46 and 47 were passed as amended.

Clause 48 was passed as printed.

Clause 49 was deleted.

Clauses 50 to 67 were passed as amended.

Clauses 68 to 71 were passed as printed.

Clause 72 was passed as amended.

10.

Clause 73 was deleted.

Clauses 74 to 89 were passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009 was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTION

ITEM 3 - OBSERVANCE OF COMMONWEALTH DAY

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Commonwealth Day will be celebrated on the 14th March, 2011 with the theme “Women as Agents of Change”;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Parliament and the Executive of the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be duly recognizing this day and holding an activity on the important theme for 2011;

AND WHEREAS we recognize that the London Declaration of 1949 was the start of a new era in which the founding member countries of the Commonwealth committed themselves to working together in partnership and as equals towards a shared future;

AND WHEREAS over these years the Commonwealth has developed into a vibrant association of fifty four (54) independent states representing nearly 2 billion people, a third of the world’s population of which approximately 1 billion are women and girls;

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11.

AND WHEREAS whilst there are many challenges remaining such as poverty, civil war, crime, gender equality and domestic violence, the Commonwealth can pride itself on comprising a family of some of the largest democratic independent nations and newly emerging democratic developing nations taking progressive positions on the new challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the global financial and economic crisis, unequal trade relations and global food security, to name a few;

AND WHEREAS various organizations have emerged that promote the objectives and principles of the Commonwealth amongst its members such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, the Commonwealth of Learning and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

AND WHEREAS Guyana is a proud member of the Commonwealth which has benefited from the support of this body in the struggle for the restoration and strengthening of democracy with the presence of international observer missions as well as support of profound parliamentary reforms (2005) and other on – going support to the Parliament of Guyana through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has not only been a recipient but it has played an important role in promoting democracy and women’s rights as well and contributed with progressive positions on poverty reduction and to the international debate on equitable trade relations and climate change.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, recognizes during the Observance of Commonwealth Day 2011, the Commonwealth’s significant contribution to Guyana and other member countries in the promotion of peace, representative democracy and individual liberty and sustainable human development; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly reiterates its recognition and support for the efforts of the Commonwealth to address emerging and old challenges and its endeavours to promote a world of freedom, equality, development and prosperity for all peoples, especially the young and women.

(Notice Paper No. 513 (M168 Govt 104) published on 2011-02-28)

While Mr. Aubrey Norton was speaking to the motion, the Speaker disallowed him from continuing.

At 7.29 p.m., the Opposition Parties withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. Donald Ramotar also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF THE ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee, to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signify to the President that Justice Prem Persaud (retd.) has been nominated in accordance with Article 198(2)(b) of the Constitution, to be appointed a Member of the Judicial Service Commission

(Notice Paper No. 520 (M169 PPP/C 20) published on 2011-03-03)

The motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.50 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.**

10th March, 2011.

