

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 154TH 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, 2ND JUNE, 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

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 Islands/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/Supenaam)

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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/Supenaam)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

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4.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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 – on leave)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

5.

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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-

At the request of Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the presentation of the following Reports were deferred:

The Ministry of Public Works and Communications Annual Reports for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

(Circulated)

6.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on 25th May, 2011.

(Circulated)

(2) By Ms Bibi Shadick, M.P.(Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations):

Second Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations.

(Circulated)

(3) Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., on behalf of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee), presented the following:

(i) Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2007 and 2008.

(Circulated)

(ii) Minutes of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2007 and 2008.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2011

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:

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7.

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,978,210,661 advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 2011-04-04 to 2011-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 524 (M171 Govt 105) published on 2011-05-20)

(Paper presented on 2011-05-19)

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,

Financial Paper No. 1/2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,978,210,661 advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 2011-04-04 to 2011-12-31.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2011

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:

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8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$4,276,136,969 for the period ending 2011-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 525 (M172 Govt 106) published on 2011-05-20)

(Paper presented on 2011-05-19)

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:

Financial Paper No. 2/2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$4,276,136,969 for the period ending 2011-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 1 FOR 2011) BILL 2011 –

Bill No. 9/2011 published on 2011-05-11

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2011) Bill No. 9/2011 to be introduced at that stage.

9.

The Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2011) Bill No. 9/2011 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, 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.

BILLS – Second Reading

**ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 8/2011
published on 2011-05-06**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Adoption of Children Act 2009.

(Read a first time on 2011-05-19)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Cheryl Sampson

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

10.

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

Clauses 1 to 12 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, the Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.52 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the sitting 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.

2nd June, 2011.