

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 161ST 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, 4TH AUGUST, 2011**  
**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 (Absent – on leave)

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (40)**

**People's Progressive Party/Civic (39)**

**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 (Absent – on leave)

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

**\*Non-elected Minister**

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2.

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of Public Service

\*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

The Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini), Minister of Local  
Government and Regional Development

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.

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

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

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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.

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)

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.

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)

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)

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 2.15 p.m.

**ANNOUCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**1. Thanks to Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, M.P.**

The Deputy Speaker thanked the Honourable Member Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall for presiding at the sitting of the National Assembly on 28th July, 2011, when both the Speaker and herself, were out of the jurisdiction. The Deputy Speaker informed Members that the Speaker was still overseas and requested their usual co-operation.

6.

2. **Appointment of Mr. Norman Whittaker, M.P. as Minister of Local Government and Regional Development**

The Deputy Speaker informed Members that following the resignation of Mr. Kellawan Lall, she was informed that Member of Parliament, the Honourable Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, was appointed Minister of Local Government and Regional Development with effect from 3rd August, 2011.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and herself, the Deputy Speaker congratulated Mr. Norman A. Whittaker on his appointment as a Minister.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following:

Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2011 – 2015.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

(i) Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(ii) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Water Incorporated for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

(3) By the Minister of Home Affairs (Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Oversight of the Security Sector):

The Interim Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Oversight of the Security Sector.

(Circulated)

7.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS**

**Caribbean Airline Flight No. 523 Accident at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport**

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics made a statement on the accident involving Caribbean Airline Flight 523 at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND  
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9**

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

WHEREAS Standing Order 9 provides that “unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held between the 10<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> October in any year”;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order 111 provides that any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended, after notice, or with the leave of the Speaker, on a motion by a member at any sitting;

AND WHEREAS the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament held its first sitting on September 28, 2006 and shall, by the effluxion of time in accordance with the Article 70 (3) of the Constitution, stand dissolved on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2011;

AND WHEREAS the suspension of this Standing Order will allow the government to conclude its legislative agenda for the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament;

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8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to suspend Standing Order 9 in order to allow the Parliament to continue to sit no later than or until September 27, 2011

**(Notice Paper No. 536 (M180 Govt 112) published on 2011-08-03)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Mr. Aubrey Norton

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Basil Williams

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.18 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

Ms Gail Teixeira

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication replied.

The motion was then put and carried.



**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Readings**

1. **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 17/2011**

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 Public Utilities Commission Act.

2. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2011 – Bill No. 18/2011**

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 provide for the establishment of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

- (i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 15/2011 published on 2011-07-21**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Energy Agency Act.

**(Read a first time on 2011-07-28)**

10.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

The Minister of Labour

The Minister of Home Affairs

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications 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 10** were passed as printed.

### **Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication, the Guyana Energy Agency (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.45 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.46 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

11.

2. **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 16/2011 published on 2011-07-28**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

**(Read a first time on 2011-07-28)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Thereafter the Minister of Home 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 3** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.19 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, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.

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**MRS. CLARISSA RIHEL, M.P.,**  
**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**4th August, 2011.**