

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 165TH 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, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 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

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

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. 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 (Absent)

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

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

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)

/...3

***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) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

4.

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

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

Ms Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

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

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. John Austin, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

OFFICERS (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.25 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 5/2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Current) totalling \$1,366,973,851 for the period 2011-08-31 to 2011-09-14.

(Circulated)

6.

(ii) Financial Paper No. 6/2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,951,698,983 for the period ending 2011-12-31.

(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance named the 22nd September, 2011 for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – SECOND READING

ITEM 1 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL 2011 – Bill No. 10/2011 published on 2011-06-14

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on Access to Information Bill 2011) 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 setting out a practical regime of right to information for persons to secure access to information under the control of public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and public authorities and for the appointment of the Commissioner of Information.

(Read a first time and committed to a Special Select Committee on 2011-06-17)

Ms Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Bill was read a second time.

7.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clauses 2 to 9 were passed as amended.

Clauses 10 to 12 were passed as printed.

Clauses 13 to 15 were passed as amended.

Clause 16 was passed as printed.

Clauses 17 and 18 were passed as amended.

Clauses 19 to 25 were passed as printed.

Clause 26 was passed as amended.

Clause 27 was passed as printed.

Clauses 28 and 29 were passed as amended.

Clauses 30 to 32 were passed as printed.

Clause 33 was passed as amended.

Clauses 34 to 37 were passed as printed.

8.

Clause 38 was passed as amended.

Clauses 39 to 42 were passed as printed.

Clauses 43 and 44 were passed as amended.

Clauses 45 to 48 were passed as printed.

Clause 49 was passed as amended.

Clause 50 was passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Access to Information Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as amended.

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

BILL – Second Reading

ITEM 2 - CHRISTIAN BRETHERN INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011-

Bill No. 19/2011 published on 2011-08-20, 2011-08-27 and 2011-09-03

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., moved the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Christian Brethren Incorporation Act 1914.

(Read a first time on 2011-09-08)

9.

The Bill was 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 Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., the Christian Brethren Incorporation (Amendment) Bill 2011 was read a third time and passed as printed.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011**

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2011 and the Telecommunications Bill 2011), consideration of the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2011 – Bill No. 17 of 2011.

(Notice Paper No. 542 (M186 Govt 117) published on 2011-09-01)

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2011

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2011 and the Telecommunications Bill 2011), consideration of the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Telecommunications Bill 2011 – Bill No. 18 of 2011.

(Notice Paper No. 542 (M187 Govt 118) published on 2011-09-01)

ITEM 5 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P., on behalf of Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Political Parties Campaign Financing – Resolution No. 153 of 2011 be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 544 (M188 PPP/C 23) published on 2011-09-09)

The Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.43 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, 22nd September, 2011.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.

15th September, 2011.