

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 166TH 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, 22ND 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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

***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 (Absent)

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 (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)

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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) (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/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 2.16 p.m.

ANNOUCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Project Document from UNDP, UNICEF and Ministry of Finance Re: Assistance to Parliament

The Speaker informed Members of the Assembly that he had accepted, on behalf of the Parliament of Guyana, a Parliamentary Support Project Document which was a joint programme between the UNDP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance.

6.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS
MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/2011

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Home Affairs signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

(Notice Paper No. 545 (M189 Govt 119) published on 2011-09-15)

(Paper presented on 2011-09-15)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED:

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

/...7

7.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 6/2011

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Home Affairs signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

(Notice Paper No. 546 (M190 Govt 120) published on 2011-09-15)

(Paper presented on 2011-09-15)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED:

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

8.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

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

Bill No. 21/2011 published on 2011-09-01

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. 3 for 2011) Bill No. 21/2011 to be introduced at that stage.

The Minister of Home Affairs, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3 for 2011) Bill No. 21/2011 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on motions by the Minister of Home Affairs, 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.

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011

At the request of the Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, consideration of the following motion was deferred:

9.

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

At the request of the Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, 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)

10.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.45 p.m., 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.

22nd September, 2011.