

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON FRIDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2012**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**  
**BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)**

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)**

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),  
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Absent – on leave)

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

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),  
Minister of Education

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),  
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

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

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the  
Ministry of Finance

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

3.

Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

\*\*Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

### **Members of the Opposition (33)**

#### **(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)**

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

**\*\*Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Mr. Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

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

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

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

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkhan, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson M.P.

5.

**(iii)Members of The Alliance For Change (7)**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

**OFFICERS**

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

**Ruling on Adjournment of the Assembly**

The Speaker informed Members that a ruling was circulated on the amendment by the Opposition Chief Whip for the Adjournment of the National Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

/...6

6.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2012.  
(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of Guyana Power and Light Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010.  
(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Labour:

Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 2010.  
(Circulated)

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

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2012 at the sitting of the National Assembly on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

**(Notice Paper No. 28 (M8 Govt 5) published on 2012-03-23)**

The motion was put and carried.

7.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

**(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - REPRESENTATION ON SECTORAL COMMITTEES**

Mr. Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 86(1) makes provision for the appointment of the four (4) Sectoral Committees pursuant to Article 119B of the Constitution as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 86(2) provides that each Sectoral Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) representing the Government and three (3) the Opposition, respectively;

AND WHEREAS in this 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the Opposition is in the majority and the Government the minority,

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 86(2) does not represent the new majority reality in this 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 86(2) be amended to read that representation on the Sectoral Committees should be calculated in accordance with the seat allocation to the Political Parties in Parliament; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the four (4) Sectoral Committees not be constituted until and unless representation thereto is calculated in accordance with the seat allocation to the Political Parties in the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

**(Notice Paper No. 21 (M4 Opp 1) published on 2012-03-05)**

8.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., seconded the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 111(3) the motion was referred forthwith, without any question being put thereon, to the Standing Orders Committee.

**ITEM 2 - COMPOSITION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 85(1) makes provision for the appointment of a Parliamentary Management Committee as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 85(2) provides that the Parliamentary Management Committee shall comprise ten (10) members, five (5) representing the Government and five (5) representing the Opposition to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, with the Speaker as the Chair, and if the latter is not a member of the Committee, he or she shall not have an original or casting vote;

AND WHEREAS the provision of the said Standing Order No. 85(2) could lead to gridlock and impasse in the work of the Parliamentary Management Committee,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 85(2) be amended to provide that the composition of the Parliamentary Management Committee shall be nine (9) members; and



9.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That representation on the nine (9) member Parliamentary Management Committee shall be determined in accordance with the seat allocation to the Political Parties in the Assembly.

**(Notice Paper No. 22 (M5 Opp 2) published on 2012-03-05)**

Ms Africo Selman, M.P., seconded the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 111(3) the motion was referred forthwith, without any question being put thereon, to the Standing Orders Committee.

**ITEM 3 - THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Orders Nos. 80(5), 88(2) and 93(2) provide that unless otherwise provided for in the Standing Orders any member of the Assembly, whether elected or non-elected, shall be eligible for membership of any Standing Committee, Select Committee and Special Select Committee, respectively, and shall have the right to vote therein,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 80(5), 88(2) and 93(2) be amended to read that only an elected member of the Assembly shall have the right to vote in any Standing Committee, Select Committee and Special Select Committee.

**(Notice Paper No. 23 (M6 Opp 3) published on 2012-03-05)**

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., seconded the motion.

10.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 111(3) the motion was referred forthwith, without any question being put thereon, to the Standing Orders Committee.

**(ii) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

The Speaker's consent was obtained in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2) for the following matter to be proceeded with at that sitting:

**ITEM 4 - HOURS OF SITTING**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(1) provides for every sitting of the National Assembly to begin at 2.00 p.m. in the afternoon and unless previously adjourned, end at 10.00 p.m. on the same day;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(2) provides that the Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolved, the Speaker shall, at 4.00 p.m., suspend the sitting for one hour, and at 7.00 p.m. suspend the sitting for half an hour;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(3) provides for the Assembly at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debates suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs one (1) and two (2) of Standing Order No. 10;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(4) provides for the Assembly from time to time, alter, by Resolution, the hours provided by Standing Order No. 10 for the beginning and ending of a sitting.

11.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order Nos. 10(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit during the following hours to complete the debate on the 2012 Budget within the five (5) days allotted for this purpose by Standing Order No. 71(2):

- 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. – Sitting
- 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 5.00 pm. - 7.30 p.m. – Sitting
- 7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. – Sitting

**(Notice Paper No. 37 (M9 Govt 6) published on 2012-03-29)**

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., seconded the motion.

Thereafter the motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 5 - BUDGET FOR 2012**

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012 of the total sum of \$179,696,546,000 excluding \$13,084,735,000 which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)

The Minister of Finance read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

**Easter Greetings**

The Speaker extended Easter Greetings to Members of Parliament, the staff of the Parliament Office and the media. Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger and the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs joined the Speaker in extending Easter greetings.

The Prime Minister informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.15 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

.....  
**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.**

