

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 25TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001-2002) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 9TH MAY, 2002
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (37)

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

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

* The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs

* The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service (Absent)

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)

** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

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

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

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

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

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

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

4.

(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

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 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Retirement of Mr. Frank Alston Narain, CCH

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Frank Alston Narain, CCH, had vacated the office of Clerk of the National Assembly with effect from 1st May, 2002. Mr. Narain served the Government and Parliament of Guyana for a period of fifty-one (51) years.

On behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended grateful thanks to Mr. Narain for the long, dedicated and efficient service he had given to the Government and Parliament of Guyana.

He also wished Mr. Narain continued good health, long life and a pleasant retirement.

(ii) **Functions of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk**

The Speaker announced that Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly and Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Principal Assistant Secretary (Finance) were performing the duties of Clerk of the National Assembly and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, respectively.

(iii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Dr. Dagleish Joseph for that day's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the **Speaker of the National Assembly**:

(i) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2000.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

(2) By the **Minister of Housing and Water**:

National Policy on Land and House Lot Distribution.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 1/2002

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, signified the recommendation of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2002 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$276,590,960, for the period ended 31st December, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Paper presented on 2002-03-15)

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

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

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

“RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2002 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$276,590,960, for the period ended 31st December, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.”

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - ENERGY SECTOR (HARMONISATION OF LAWS) BILL 2002 - Bill No. 1/2002

published 2002-03-11

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to harmonise laws governing regulatory functions in the restructured electricity and energy sectors.

(Read a first time on 2002-03-15)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - GUYANA TOURISM AUTHORITY BILL 2002 - Bill No. 2/2002 published 2002-03-11

Second Reading

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce moved the second reading of the following Bill:

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the incorporation of the Authority to define its functions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2002-03-15)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Ravindra Dev

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

The following corrections were made:

(1) Insertion of "the" in the following:-

In the Arrangement of Sections and in the Marginal Notes:

Clause 3 - between "of" and "Authority"

Clause 17 - between "of" and "Authority"

Clause 18 - between "of" and "Director"

Clause 21 - between "of" and "Authority"

Clause 24 - between "of" and "Authority"

9.

Clause 41 - between "of" and "Authority"

Clause 42 - between "of" and "Minister"

(2) Substitution of "falls" for "fails" in the second line of subsection (1) of clause 10.

(3) Substitution of "comprise" for "compromise" in the second line of clause 21.

Clauses 1 - 44 were passed as corrected.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, the Bill was read the third time and passed as corrected.

ITEM 3 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2002 -

Bill No. 3/2002 published 2002-03-11

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 2002-03-15)

Mrs. Sheila Holder spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

The following amendments by the Minister of Home Affairs were put and carried.

Clause 2(c)(i) for "a suitable", substitute "an".

Clause 2(f) for "and an attachment which is anchored at an anchorage point to the structure of the seat of a motor vehicle by appropriate means", substitute "and attachments anchored to the motor vehicle in accordance with section 45 A(1)".

Clause 3

New section 45D(1) for "used", substitute "driven".

New section 45D(2) for "uses", substitute "drives".

New section 45E(2) delete paragraph (e) and re-letter paragraph (f) as paragraph (e).

New section 45E(4) for "or" in line two, substitute "on".

Clauses 1 - 3 were passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 4 - ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the establishment of a Special Select Committee to review the public holidays appointed by the Public Holidays Act, Chapter 19:07, with a view to including as public holidays, the following days, namely -

Independence Day, that is to say, the 26th May, or, if that day is a Sunday, the following day, and

Arrival Day, that is to say, the 5th May, or, if that day is a Sunday, the following day.

(Notice Paper No. 9 (M8 Govt 6) published 2002-04-26)

ITEM 5 - ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY RE: MATTERS CONCERNING GUYANA POLICE FORCE

The Speaker noted the absence of Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, the Member listed to move the following motion, and instructed the Clerk to remove the motion from the Order Paper.

12.

WHEREAS the Guyana Police Force is statutorily charged with the responsibility of crime detection and prevention and has since its establishment faithfully fulfilled its mandate in the face of difficult circumstances and should be so recognised and applauded:

AND WHEREAS despite the dedicated and gallant efforts of the overwhelming majority of ranks within the Police Force to fulfil the mandate, the conduct of some Policemen, particularly of the Target Special Squad, popularly known as the Black Clothes Police, continue to engage in extra-judicial killings, brutality, corruption and high handedness in relations with the public;

AND WHEREAS allegation of such brutality and extra-judicial killings have gone without proper or no investigation and prosecution and have been met with silence by the Guyana Police Force hierarchy, the Government and civil society:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly in expressing general satisfaction and appreciation to the Police Force strongly condemn the high incidence of extra-judicial killings, abuse and mistreatment of citizens and call on the President to forthwith establish a Commission of Inquiry into the Leadership functions and effectiveness of the Guyana Police Force to make recommendations thereon which will redound to the benefit of the Guyana Police Force in particular and citizenry in general.

(Notice Paper No. 5 (M4 Opp 1) published 9.8.2001)

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 6 - WATER AND SEWERAGE BILL 2002 - Bill No. 4/2002 published 2002-03-23

The Minister of Housing and water moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the ownership, management, control, protection and conservation of water resources, the provision of safe water, sewerage services and advisory services, the regulation thereof and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2002-03-26)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Ravindra Dev

Mrs. Shirley Melville

Thereafter, the Minister of Housing and Water replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM *7 - SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS) VALIDATION BILL 2001 - Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

14.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to validate the constitution and proceedings of the Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, constituted pursuant to the declaration on 19th day of December, 1997 of the results of the national and regional elections, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2001.05.24)

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.47 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

9th May, 2002.