

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 27TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001-2002) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH 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

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

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

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)

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

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

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) (Absent)

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) (Absent)

*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 - on leave)

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Annual Reports (6) of the Guyana Post Office Corporation for the years 1991 - 1996.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -**For Written Replies****No. 1 - TRANSPORT FOR SALE OF LAND IN ANNANDALE****Question by Mrs. Sheila Holder:**

Would the Honourable Minister say when the transport for the sale of 49.9 acres of land in block 4 Annandale East, East Coast Demerara by the Government to the Eastville Co-operative Society, which was advertised in the Official Gazette on the 12th August, 1995 would be handed over.

(Notice Paper No. 16 (Q8 Opp 8) published 2002-05-21)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Housing and Water:

Transport of Block numbered 4 (four) containing an area of 49.923 acres and being portion of Plan Annandale (East) East Coast, Demerara was advertised on April 12, 1995 by the Government of Guyana to be passed to Eastville Co-operative Society Limited.

A condition for the passing of transport in favour of the Eastville Co-operative Society Ltd. is that the house lots should be allocated only to those members of the Society whose applications have been approved by the Central Housing and Planning Authority and only to persons who are not, at the time of such allocation, owners of immovable property elsewhere in Guyana and shall be for the purpose of self occupancy.

By way of a letter dated January 28, 2000 Attorney-at-law Deborah Osman Backer, M.P., on behalf of Eastville Co-operative Society Ltd. confirmed the undertaking to provide the relevant information. To date, this has not been submitted to the Central Housing and Planning Authority.

No. 2 - COMPENSATION**Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder:**

- (i) Has the Honourable Minister been consulted, or is being consulted, on the issue of compensation to unfortunate victims of the post March 2001 national and regional elections disturbances?
- (ii) Will the Honourable Minister say whether he has been consulted, or is being consulted, on the issue of payment of compensation to the unfortunate Mr. Norman Trotz, a citizen of Guyana, whose commercial building, "Toucan Suites" was destroyed in the process of apprehending the notorious wanted criminal known as 'Blackie'?

(Notice Paper No. 13 (Q5 Opp5) published 2002-05-21)

Replies submitted by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

- (i) The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs has not been consulted and/or requested to tender advice on the issue of compensation to the victims of the post March 2001 national and regional elections disturbances.
- (ii) On January 15, 2002, Mr. Trotz filed a Notice of Motion together with affidavit in Support intituled "**N&R Company Limited vs The Attorney General, The Commissioner of Police and The Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force**" No. 5-M/2002.

On April 8, 2002 an affidavit in Answer was filed by the State.

The matter is fixed for fixture for hearing on June 24, 2002 before the Honourable Madame Justice Cummings-Edwards.

No. 3 - GUYANA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED**Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder:**

- (i) What is the status of the Board of Directors of the Guyana Construction Company (GCCL)?
- (ii) Is the GCCL wholly owned by the Government of Guyana?
- (iii) Is the Government of Guyana (GOG) indebted to the GCCL? If so, is there agreement on the amount of the debt between GCCL and GOG?
- (iv) Has there been any free services demanded by the GOG from the GCCL?
- (v) Is it the Government of Guyana's intention to privatise the GCCL? If the answer is yes, will the Government consider a take over bid from the GCCL's employees?

(Notice Paper No. 11 (Q3 Opp3) published 2002-05-21)

Replies submitted by the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics:

- (i) Since the expiration of the life of the last Board in 1993 no new Board has been installed.
- (ii) Yes, General Construction Company Ltd. is wholly owned by the Government of Guyana.
- (iii) Yes, discussion on the issue is in progress but there has been no agreement as regards the quantum.

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- (iv) No demands were ever made to the General Construction Company Ltd. by the Government of Guyana.
- (v) No, it is not the Government's intention to privatise the General Construction Company Ltd. but to wind up the company - arrange the affairs of and dissolve the company at a future date.

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE - PREVENTION FROM ENTERING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Donald Ramotar moved a motion of Privilege concerning his prevention from entering the National Assembly at the last Sitting held on Friday, 24th May, 2002, and moved that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges in accordance with Standing Order No. 26(3).

The Speaker accordingly referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - PROCUREMENT BILL 2002 - Bill No. 6/2002 published 21.5.2002

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the regulation of the procurement of goods, services and the execution of works, to promote competition among suppliers and contractors and to promote fairness and transparency in the procurement process.

(Read a first time on 24.5.2002)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Shirley Melville

Mr. Ravindra Dev

The Minister of Health

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance 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

Clauses 1 -15 were passed as printed.

Clause 16

The following amendment by the Minister of Finance was put and carried:

Substitution of 'Minister' for 'President' in the second line of subsection (2).

Clause 16 was passed as amended.

Clauses 17 - 69 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Procurement Bill 2002 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.15 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.**

29th May, 2002.