

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> 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, 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 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 (Absent - performing the functions of the Office of President)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

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 (Absent - on leave)

\* 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

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. (Absent - on leave)

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

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) (Absent - on leave)

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)

\*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 - Pomereroon/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.

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**

**Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:-

The Hon. Rudolph Insanally, for that day's sitting,

Mr. Bernard De Santos, up to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2002, and

Mr. Ramesh Rajkumar, for that day's sitting.

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS****For Written Replies****No. 1 - FUNDS EXPENDED ON ROADS - AMERINDIAN VILLAGES**

Question by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:

Could the Minister provide on an individual basis the total amount of funds expended on the construction of roads in the following villages during 1997 - 2001 inclusive?

- Paramakatoi
- Monkey Mountain
- Kato
- Kurukubaru
- Chenapau
- Karisparu
- Wandaik
- Itabac
- Puwa
- Kamana
- Bamboo Landing
- Kopinang

*(Notice Paper No. 27 (Q15 Opp15) published 2002-06-17)*

**Reply submitted by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:**

**AMOUNT EXPENDED ON ROADS, TRAILS AND BRIDGES IN REGION 8 FROM 1997 TO 2001**

VILLAGES	1997			1998			1999			2000			2001			TOTAL (G\$M)
	ROADS (G\$M)	TRAILS (G\$M)	BRIDGES (G\$M)	ROADS (G\$M)	TRAILS (G\$M)	BRIDGES (G\$M)	ROADS (G\$M)	TRAILS (G\$M)	BRIDGES (G\$M)	ROADS (G\$M)	TRAILS (G\$M)	BRIDGES (G\$M)	ROADS (G\$M)	TRAILS (G\$M)	BRIDGES (G\$M)	
Kurukubaru - Ilabac			1.725 (2)				0.350						0.500			2.575
Kurukubaru - Kamana			1.470 (1)	0.045		1.682 (2)				0.050					1.432 (1)	4.679
Kato - Chiung Mouth				0.015						0.075						0.090
Kato - Kurukubaru				0.055						0.055				0.075		0.185
Kato - Tuseneng				0.055						1.000	0.030					1.085
Kato - Papamakatoi			0.400 (1)	0.050		4.570 (2)	4.300		2.610 (1)				1.300			13.230
Chenapau - Paramakatoi				0.200										0.050		0.350
Kanapang - Ilabac			1.725 (2)						0.040					0.090		1.815
Turuka - Paramakatoi				0.090									3.000		0.242 (1)	0.180
Tuseneng - Paramakatoi														0.060		3.242
Waipa - Kopinang								0.060								0.120
Kurukubaru - Maikwak								0.090								0.090
Kopinang - Kamana								0.040								0.040
Faruka - Monkey Mountain																0.035
Ilabac - Orinduik													2.000			2.040
Waipa - Kaie'eur														0.100		0.100
Ilabac - Maikwak														0.040		6.112
Monkey Mountain - Paramakatoi														0.090		0.090
Kaib'rupai - Waipa														0.100		2.697
Kar'aria - Maikwak														0.070		0.100
Waipa - Orinduik														0.050		0.070
Kanapang - Monkey Mountain																0.050
SUB TOTAL			5.320 (2)	0.510		6.252 (2)	4.650	0.230	2.610	3.500	0.575		6.800	0.585	7.943	38.975
GRAND TOTAL			5.320	6.762		7.490			4.075				15.328			38.975

**No. 2 - SUBSIDIES**

Question by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:

Could the Minister provide the subsidies, if any, per pound of produce, paid during the period 1992 to its closure to the Guyana Airways Corporation for transporting goods and indigenous people into the Pakaraimas areas of Sub Region No. 2 of Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni?

*(Notice Paper No. 28 (Q16 Opp16) published 2002-06-07)*

**Reply submitted by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:**

The Guyana Airways Corporation is no longer in existence. As a consequence, I am not in a position to say if by way of a Government Policy any subsidy to cost was implemented for goods transported to North Pakaraimas via Guyana Airways Corporation (G.A.C.).

I am aware of:

- (a) Persons being referred to Georgetown for medical treatment and their passage (return) and stay while in Georgetown are borne by the State.
- (b) Secondary school scholarship students are brought out to Georgetown and returned to their homes at the beginning and ending of each school term with their expenses paid for by the State.
- (c) Scholarship students are given a stipend and are provided with board/lodge at the State's expense.
- (d) Detail of the numbers of scholarship students from the various location are available at the Amerindian Affairs Ministry.

**No. 3 - POPULATION STATISTICS**

Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Local Government and Regional

Development:

(i) How many adults and children by gender reside presently in each of the following villages:-

- Paramakatoi
- Monkey Mountain
- Kato
- Kurukubaru
- Chenapau
- Karisparu
- Wandaik
- Itabac
- Puwa
- Kamana
- Bamboo Landing
- Kopinang

(ii) Could the Minister provide the population statistics and demographics for the villages listed above during the last two national population censuses?

*(Notice Paper No. 19 (Q9 Opp9) published 2002-06-17)*



**Replies submitted by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:**

- (i) Adults and children population by gender in the following villages of Region No. 8 to end of May, 2002:

NAMES OF VILLAGES	ADULT		CHILDREN		VILLAGE TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	BOYS	GIRLS	
Paramakatoi (including Bamboo Creek - (not Bamboo Landing))	517	416	433	542	1908
Monkey Mountain	137	135	171	181	624
Kato	99	103	111	115	428
Kurukubaru (including Puwa)	212	186	210	161	769
Chenapau	73	81	134	185	473
Karisparu	36	34	40	39	149
(Wandaik) Maikwak	17	15	18	27	77
Itabac	34	23	54	47	158
Kamana	72	40	29	23	164
Kopinang	169	145	217	195	726
<b>GENDER TOTALS</b>	<b>1366</b>	<b>1178</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>1515</b>	<b>5476</b>

Please note that information was obtained via various sources including the Ministry of Health, Region 8 Administration and the Guyana Elections Commission. In the absence of a head count in each village, I had to rely on what was available but cannot see any great differences to the above if a current on-the-ground head count is taken.

- (ii) The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development do not carry out censuses, hence the question could be better addressed to the Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance.

**No. 4 - CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics:

Could the Minister -

- (i) provide the annual sums expended during the period 1995 to 2000 on the following roads?:-
- Charity to Supenaam public road
  - Parika to Vreed-en-Hoop public road
  - Georgetown to Rosignol public road
  - New Amsterdam to Crabwood Creek public road
  - Enmore to Kitty public road
- (ii) provide details about which portions of roads in Region 9 were repaired and/or built in the previous financial year for the amount of \$16.548M allocated in Region 9 votes for roads works?
- (iii) say whether Guyanese contractors will be invited to bid as subcontractors to assist *Construtora Queiro Galvao S/A*, the Brazilian contractors employed by the Brazilian State of Roraima, in the building of the Takutu Bridge?  
*(Notice Paper No. 23 (Q13 Opp13) published 2002-06-17)*

**Replies submitted by the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics:**

(i)

Description	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total	
	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000	US\$000	G\$000
Charity to Supenaam	3,037	92,320	188	132,865	3,591	77,252	4,186	85,545	806	61,907	1,727	99,984	13,535	545,673
Panika to Vreed - en - Hoop	1,083	15,026	381	2,517	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,464	17,543
**Georgetown to Rosignol	318	50,037	3,973	116,609	1,482	30,345	3,546	197,773	2,873	550,067	396	361,885	12,585	1,306,775
N/A to CWC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>157,383</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>251,991</b>	<b>5,073</b>	<b>107,597</b>	<b>7,732</b>	<b>283,318</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>611,974</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>461,869</b>	<b>27,587</b>	<b>1,874,122</b>

G\$ Equiv of US\$ 3,656,774

Total G\$ 5,740,775

The question of expenditure for Georgetown to Rosignol and Enmore to Kitty public road seems to be the same, as a contract was awarded to Dipcon Engineering for the rehabilitation of Georgetown to Mahaica public road and included the railway line embankment. I am assuming that the question for the Enmore to Kitty public road is the railway line embankment.

The cost associated with Dipcon Contract was:

	Original	Extension	Total
Main Public road G\$000	1,497,650	119,575	1,617,225
Railway Line G\$000	416,263	116,328	532,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,913,913</b>	<b>235,903</b>	<b>2,149,816</b>
Price escalation not valued in contract			306,323
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,456,139</b>

(ii) Following is a list of road work done for the year 2001 with cost for each road in Region #9 from funds appropriated by Parliament to Region 9 Regional Democratic Council:

ROADS - REGION #9

	<u>COST</u>
	\$
1) Toka to Masara - Force Account	523,000
2) Lethem to Kurupukari (Force Account)	-
a) Johnson Ranch to Sari Sari Bridge	
b) Sari Sari Bridge to Genip Landing	
c) Hunt Oil Junction to Kurupukari Village	
3) Manari to Parishara - Force Account	-
a) From Nappi Junction to Cluster of Building before Nappi Village	
3) Moco Moco Bridge approaches - build up with material transported to site, grading and shaping, etc.)	-
4) Grading and shaping of roads in and around Lethem by Force Account	-
a) From Lethem Airstrip to M.K.S. Store	
b) Lethem Power Plant junction to new Rodeo Site	
c) Eddie Singh Junction to Industrial Site	
d) From Guyana Stores Junction to Walker Junction	
5) Rehabilitation of road from Tabatinga Bridge to Takatu Drive	-
6) Purchase of Bitumen (132 drums at \$22,000.00 per drum)	2,904,000.00
7) Salaries and Overtime and Subsistence to workers employed by R. D. C. doing Force Account road works	5,217,077.00
8) Repairs to road building equipment and purchase of spares to do Force Account Road works stated at items 1-5 above.	5,420,000.00
9) Procurement of 217 concrete tubings (various sizes and costs)	1,957,500.00

**NOTE:**

Expenditures stated at 8, 9 and 10 above were to facilitate Force Account road works stated at part of item 1 and whole of items 2, 3 4 & 5.

Equipment repaired and maintained for road works include two (2) bulldozers, one (1) grader, six ( 6) model M Bedford lorries, three (3) back hoes and one (1) short wheel base land rover.

- (iii) The Takatu Bridge is being solely funded and built by the Brazilian Government and it is agreed that all labour on the project on the Guyana side will be Guyanese.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

1. **FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2002 - Bill No. 7/2002**  
**published 2002-07-24**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act and the Hotel Accommodation Tax Act 1993.

2. **FISHERIES BILL 2002 - Bill No. 8/2002 published 2002-07- 30**

The Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the promotion, management, and development of fisheries and for matters connected therewith.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the working classes of Guyana have no other option but to rely on the public transportation service provided by mini-buses to get to and fro for all purposes; and

WHEREAS this service is viewed as falling far short of minimum standards of safety, courtesy and recognition of the rights of consumers using the service; and

WHEREAS the Guyana Police Force has recently taken steps to bring operators in the sector under the ambit of the law.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly recognises the need for a policy to be crafted and appropriate regulation instituted in consultation with operators in the sector, consumers and other stakeholders to introduce best practices and systems for the safe, efficient and fair operation of the sector.

*(Notice Paper No. 26 (M12 Opp4) published 2002-06-17)*

Mrs. Shirley Melville seconded and spoke to the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mr. Ravi Dev

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Thereafter, Mrs. Sheila Holder replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2.54 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.**

**8<sup>th</sup> August, 2002.**