

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 8TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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) (Absent – on leave)

***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.

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.

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 1.15 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

6.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Replies

1. RENTAL OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following questions:

Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly:-

- (a) *Whether teachers and other government officers are required to pay 10% of their salary as rent?
- (b) *Whether this procedure is practiced in all 10 Regions and, if not, whether this is being practiced in Region 10 only?
- (c) *Whether monies collected are paid into the consolidated fund and, if not, into which fund are these monies paid?

(Notice Paper No. 25 (Q 18 Opp 18) published on 2012-03-21)

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

2. HOUSE LOTS IN REGION 10

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following questions:

Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly:-

- (a) *What criteria were used to determine the cost of a house lot in Region # 10?

7.

(b) *What is the standard size of a house lot?

(c) *Why residents of Region #10, including teachers, nurses and young people, were asked to pay \$500,000, \$300,000, \$150,000 and \$113,000 for house lots in Region #10?

(Notice Paper No. 27 (Q 20 Opp 20) published on 2012-03-21)

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development supplementary questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

For Written Reply

3. **EXPENDITURE ON CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT IN REGION # 10**

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly, whether monies are provided to the RDC of Region # 10 for expenditure on Culture, Youth and Sport?

(Notice Paper No. 26 (Q 19 Opp 19) published on 2012-03-21)

Answer:

Monies are provided to Region No. 10 for expenditure on culture, youth and sport, included under the budgetary allocations to Line Item No. 6291, National and Other Events, and to various Line Items within Programme 803 Education Delivery. Some expenditures in this area are also met from central sources such as through the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

8.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2012 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2012

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2012-03-30)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Mr. Ronald Bulkhan

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.43 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Mr. John Adams

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud

Ms Annette Ferguson

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.28 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Agriculture

Ms Mabel Baveghems

The Minister of Labour

Mr. Sydney Allicock

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj

Presiding by Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

At 9.35 p.m., the Acting Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal took the Chair.

Acting Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 9.40 p.m., the Acting Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj continued and concluded his speech.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 11

At 9.50 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 11 was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its budget debate uninterrupted.

10.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Ms June Eula Marcello

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.35 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m., on Thursday, 12th April, 2012.

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MRS. DEBORAH BACKER, M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

11th April, 2012.

