

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND**  
**SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2003**  
**IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,**  
**LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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)

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

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

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

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. (Absent)

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. 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)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

\*Non-Elected Minister

\*\*Elected Member from The United Force



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

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**(There is one vacancy)**

(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 2:03 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that there was a typographical error on page 5 - item 2 on that day's Order Paper, and requested the Members to make the necessary correction.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**

By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government:

Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the Caricom Single Market and Economy.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -**

**For Oral Replies**

**No. 1 - SOLAR WATER PUMP SYSTEM AT PARAMAKATOI**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Housing and Water the following questions:

1. \*Could the Minister say why the newly installed solar water pump system at Paramakatoi (PK) is not supplying water at its installed capacity, six four hundred gallon plastic overhead tanks to the PK community or even at 30% of its installed capacity?
2. \*Could the Minister say when PK residents could expect to reap the benefits of the potable solar water system that is not functioning to date?
3. \*Would the Minister indicate the cost of the solar water pump system installed at PK ?

- 4 \*Was the solar water system at PK contracted out or installed by GUYWA?
- 5 \*If so, to whom was the contract given, and what is the sum paid to the contractor for the installation of the system?

**(Notice Paper No. 11(Q4 Opp4) published 2003-02-17)**

**Oral replies by the Minister of Housing and Water**

- (i) “The yield of the well was significantly reduced due to the prolonged dry season and this is not confined to Paramakatoi. There are several other locations in Regions 7 and 8 where this had occurred. The solar pump will operate as long as there is water in the well. So, it is the question of source of supply and not a problem with the malfunctioning of the solar water system which switches itself off under low water conditions, under a self protection mechanism.”
- (ii) “Under the Hinterland Strategy which will be implemented this year, and for which GWI will be presenting a document, Paramakatoi and other villages in Regions 7 and 8 will come for special consideration for improvement of water supply. The main problem is the source of supply. During 2000 and 2001, many wells were drilled in Regions 7 and 8 and many of them failed. So we have to utilise new technology and to conduct a hydrocensus in these areas which will be done during the year 2003 and 2004, to ensure that we have sources of supply of water. Funds are available for this purpose.”



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- (iii) “In terms of the cost of the Paramakatoi water supply system, the cost of \$7.5 million are as follows:
- The Solar Water Pump Unit - \$2.5 million;
  - Installation of the Pump unit and fencing - \$500,000
  - Supply and installation of 2.5 kilometers of pipes and rehabilitation works - \$4.5 million.
- (iv) “The Installation of the Solar Water pump system was contracted out.”
- (v) “The name of the contractor is Mohamed Ayube and the sum paid was \$300,000, which includes the cost to charter an aircraft to Paramakatoi.”

**No.2 - GRANT OF GUYWA MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TO SEVERN TRENT**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Housing and Water the following question:

\*Could the Minister say what informed the decision to grant Severn Trent the GUYWA management contract when their bid was over US\$600,000 more than the other bids at a time when the government of Trinidad & Tobago, a sister CARICOM state, terminated a similar contract with Severn Trent because of unsatisfactory performance in managing the Trinidad & Tobago water utility?

**(Notice Paper No. 12 (Q5 Opp5) published 2003-02-17)**

**Oral reply by the Minister of Housing and Water**

“The contract document required two envelopes to be returned by each bidder, a technical response and a financial response. These were to be evaluated independently and points awarded for each response. In order to place emphasis on the technical qualities necessary to address the complex task of modernising the new utility and its services provision throughout Guyana, the scoring rated seventy percent for technical merit and thirty percent for price.

There were two compliance bids which were received from two firms, Bywater and Severn Trent.

Severn Trent scored better than Bywater in each of the criteria evaluated and overall their bid was scored significantly higher on technical merits.”

**No. 3 - PORTABLE WATER FOR RESIDENTS OF BAMBOO CREEK**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Housing and Water the following question:

\*Bamboo Creek in Region 8 that has a population of approximately 500 people has been experiencing severe problems in accessing water for drinking and domestic purposes. Would the Minister say what his Ministry could do to alleviate this desperate situation where there is no available water from springs and creeks during the dry season?

**(Notice Paper No. 13 (Q6 Opp 6) published 2003-02-17)**



**Oral reply by the Minister of Housing and Water**

“The Ministry, under the Hinterland strategy, which will come on stream this year, will be drilling a number of wells. Before this is done, a feasibility study will be carried out, utilising new technology. Some donor support is expected for this, because it is very, very expensive.”

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -****Press Release By the PNC/R on the absence of a Policy on Youth**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport made the following statement:

“With respect to the press release by the PNC/R on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 concerning the absence of a Policy on Youth which is contributing to social decay, the fact is, that the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport is a part of the National Development Strategy which will be retable in the National Assembly for debate according to the Communique that has been signed between His Excellency the President and the Leader of the Opposition.

A National Youth Policy was presented to the National Assembly in 1997 by Dr. Henry Jeffrey, then Minister who had responsibility for Youth and that the Youth Policy that was present to the National Assembly in 1997 is being reviewed by the National Youth Commission.”

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****MOTIONS****ITEM 1 - REVISED TREATY OF CHAGUARAMAS ESTABLISHING THE  
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE CARICOM SINGLE  
MARKET AND ECONOMY**

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and with the leave of the Assembly, consideration of the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy was signed on behalf of the Government of Guyana by His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2001, at the Twenty-First Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

WHEREAS the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas addresses specific areas of concern to the Caribbean Community including the Free Movement of Goods, Services and Capital, Rights of Establishment, Supporting and Facilitating Measures and Policies, Private Sector Participation and External Interface and Decision Making, Institutional and Administrative Structures.

AND WHEREAS Article 233 of the said Revised Treaty states that "This Treaty and any amendments thereto shall be subject to ratification by Signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures."

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

**Bills - Second Reading**

**ITEM 2 - PROCUREMENT BILL 2003 - BILL No. 7/2003 published 2003-05-30**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, 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 2003-06-05)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston S. Murray

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3:55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4:45 p.m., the sitting was resumed.



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The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ravindra Dev

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Jerome Khan

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville

The Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence

Mr. James K. McAllister

The Hon. Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin

Mr. Kemraj Rajattan

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 of Supply**

Before the Committee commenced the consideration of the Bill clause by clause, the Members of the People's National Congress Reform and Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder of the Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance, withdrew from the Chamber.

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 2(1)            Insert after words “means” the words “the procuring entity of”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 2 was passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 15 were passed as printed.

Clause 16

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 16(3)            For paragraphs (i) and (ii) substitute the following paragraphs -  
                              “(i) not more than five persons from the Public Service:  
                              (ii) not more than three persons from the private sector.” after  
                              consultations with their representative organisations.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 16 was passed as amended.

Clause 17

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 17(2)            For the words “52” substitute the words “53”  
Paragraph (e)

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 17 was passed as amended.

Clause 18 was passed as printed.

Clause 19

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 19(2)(b)

Re-arrange the paragraph as follows -

“(b) two members appointed by the regional administration from among persons with qualifications not dissimilar to those required for appointment to the National Board.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 19 was passed as amended.

Clauses 20 and 21 were passed as printed.

Clause 22

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 22(3)

Delete the word “the” a typographical error.

The amendment was put and carried.



Clause 22 was passed as amended.

Clauses 23 and 24 were passed as printed.

Clause 25

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 25(2)           Delete the words beginning with the words “The procuring entity may engage in procurement” and ending with the end of clause 25.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 25 was passed as amended.

Clauses 26 to 45 were passed as printed.

Clause 46

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 46           For the words “for the the” substitute the word “the.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 46 was passed as amended.

Clauses 47 to 53 were passed as printed.

Clause 54

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Clause 54(6)            Insert the following subsection as subsection (6) -

“(6) Cabinet’s involvement under this section shall cease upon the constitution of the Public Procurement Commission except in relation to those matters referred to in subsection (1) which are pending.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 54 was passed as amended.

Clauses 55 to 63 were passed as printed.

**Assembly Resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Procurement Bill 2003 was read the third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 3 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2003 - Bill No.**

**6/2003 published 2003-05-30**

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

**(Read a first time on 2003-06-05)**

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 of Supply**

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

### **Assembly Resumed**

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Public Utilities Commission Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8.28 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003.



**HARI N. RAMKARRAN**  
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2003