

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 15<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, 26<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 - 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

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) (Absent - on leave)

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) (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)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Amna 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. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

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)

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**

**Leave**

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

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Mr. C. Stanley Ming

Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, for that day's sitting, and

Mr. Jerome Khan, up to the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

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

- (1) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Committee of Selection of the Second Session held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 and 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2003, respectively.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chairman of the Appointive Committee)

Reports of the Standing Committee for the Appointment of Members of the Commissions Pursuant to Article 119C of the Constitution.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -**

**For Oral Replies**

**No.1 CO-GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Prime Minister the following question:

\*Could the Prime Minister say what steps are being taken by the Government of Guyana to ensure that the opportunities being offered to the national grid for co-generation are not stymied by the monopoly power supplier, Guyana Power and Light Company Ltd.?

(Notice Paper No. 21(Q14 Opp14) published 2003-02-17)

**Oral reply by the Prime Minister**

Firstly, since coming into office in 1992 the Government developed a policy for the electricity sector which promotes the diversification of energy sources, including the utilizations of opportunities for co-generation.

The Honourable Member refers specifically to co-generation which is the combined provision of heat and electric power from the same fuel source. Co-generation is an efficient way of using fuel source, which could be some form of biomass resource or petroleum-derived fuel. This question seems directed to various proposals by GUYSUCO for co-generation.

Discussions were initiated between GUYSUCO and the Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC), more than twelve years ago, prior to the privatization of the GEC, relative to GUYSUCO's co-generation potential, to produce additional and surplus electric power on burning its bagasse at many of its factory.

Prime Minister has been advised that there have been continued discussions between GUYSUCO and GPL. Prime Minister understands that an agreement between the parties has not yet been reached.

**No. 2 - OPENING UP OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Prime Minister the following question:

1. \*Could the Prime Minister say what steps are being taken by the Guyana Government to forge ahead with its decision to open up the telecommunications sector to competition?

(Notice Paper No. 22 (Q15 Opp15) published 2003-02-17

**Oral reply by the Prime Minister**

In keeping with its promise to liberalize the telecommunications sector in Guyana, the PPP/C Government entered into an Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as Administrator of the Multilateral Investment Fund on August 18, 2000, whereby the IDB provided the sum of US\$1,100,000.00 to fund a Project aimed at Modernization of the Telecommunications Sector. The Government has committed the sum of US\$500,000.00 as counterpart funds to the Project. The stated general objective of the Project is to modernize the telecommunications sector and the specific objective is to promote competition in the telecommunications and information services sectors, and to establish the regulatory framework that would support a liberalized telecommunications sector.

The Project consists of five components, which are as follows:

1. Strategy Formulation and Implementation
2. Legal/Regulatory Framework Reform
3. Network Modeling and Audit
4. Outreach and Training
5. Strengthening Regulatory Capabilities

Implementation of the Project commenced in August, 2000 and was expected to be completed by February, 2003. However, the Project has been put on hold at the request of the IDB since July, 2002, due to a lawsuit instituted in Washington, DC, USA in June, 2002 by Atlantic Tele-Network Inc., the majority shareholder in GT&T against Guyana, the IDB and the US Government. A Court decision was given in favor of all Defendants on March 7, 2003 and the Government is in the process of discussing a restart of project implementation with the IDB.

**No. 3 CO-GENERATION PROPOSALS BY GUYSUCO TO GUYANA  
POWER AND LIGHT (GPL)**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Prime Minister the following question:

\*Would the Prime Minister say if Guyana Power and Light, Inc (GPL) was approached by GUYSUCO with co-generation proposals and if so, what was the response and the reasons for the responses provided by GPL?

**(Notice Paper No. 28(Q21 Opp21) published 2003-02-17)**

**Oral reply by the Prime Minister**

The answer to this question is covered in the response to the 1<sup>st</sup> QUESTION above.

The Prime Minister is aware that discussions between GUYSUCO and GPL are still ongoing. Both parties have taken account of the potential overall economic benefits of any GUYSUCO co-generation project to the country as a whole.

Considerations of price and reliability would determine the final decision.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

**Statement by Head of the Presidential Secretariat, concerning support for the Procurement Bill by People's National Congress Reform.**

Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin gave a personal explanation in relation to a statement made by Head of the Presidential Secretariat, Dr. Roger Luncheon, M.D., at his weekly Press Conference and carried in the Guyana Chronicle, Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2003.



**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS****Presentation and First Reading****MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING (SUPPRESSION) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 8/2003**  
**published 2003-06-21**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for co-operation in the suppression of illicit maritime drug trafficking and for connected matters.

(Circulated)

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

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government, moved the following motion:

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.

**AND 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.

**(Notice Paper No. 46 (M19 Govt 18) published 2003.06.13)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl

The Hon. Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder

Mr. Ravindra Devi

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The motion was then put and carried.

**SUSPENSION**

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.34 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE FIRST REPORT OF THE APPOINTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly adopts the First Report of the Appointive Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President the name of Mr. Brynmor Pollard, C.C.H., S.C., as its choice to be appointed a member of the Judicial Service Commission in accordance with article 198 (2)(b) of the Constitution.

**(Notice Paper No. 47 (M20 Govt 19) published 2003-06-25)**

The following Member spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE APPOINTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly adopts the Second Report of the Appointive Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and submits the names of the undermentioned four persons as the nominees of this Assembly to be appointed members of the Police Service Commission by the President in accordance with article 210 (l) (c) of the Constitution:

- |   |                         |  |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| ■ | Name:                   | Mr. Henry Chester, DSM, Retired Deputy Commissioner of Police.             |
|   | Occupation/Designation: | Security Consultant/Farmer;  |
| ■ | Name:                   | Mr. Harold Martin, Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police                |
|   | Occupation/Designation: | Farmer;  |
| ■ | Name:                   | Mr. Ivan Crandon, Retired Deputy Commissioner of Police                    |
|   | Occupation/Designation: | President of the Guyana Legions; and                                       |
| ■ | Name:                   | Mr. Franchot Henry Duncan Clarke, Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police |
|   | Occupation/Designation: | Pensioner.   |

**(Notice Paper No. 48 (M21 Govt20) published 2003-06-25)**

The following Member spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.40 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.**

**26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003**

# MINUTE

Clerk,  
Committee on Appointment of Members of Commissions,

## Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

I have read the above Minutes and observed with grave dismay that you have deviated from our rules and practice (even convention) in the preparation of the Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on the Appointment of Members of Commissions.

I write with specific reference to paragraph 5.3.1.5 of the Minutes.

You ought to be aware that Minutes of the National Assembly, Committees of the whole Assembly, and Select Committees, respectively, are prepared in accordance with the following Standing Orders -

*6(1) : The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping the Minutes of Proceedings of the Assembly and of Committees of the whole Assembly, which shall record the names of Members attending, all decisions taken and details of every division held.*

*76(4): The Minutes of Proceedings of a Committee shall record all proceedings upon the consideration of any report or Bill in the Committee and upon every amendment proposed to such report or Bill together with a note of any division taken in the Committee and of the names of Members voting therein or declining to vote.*

With respect to Select Committees all attempts have been made to record the proceedings without including the names of Members except on the attendance sheet and in divisions. Neither in the Assembly nor the Committees names of parties are mentioned in Minutes.

If full details are required by a Committee of its proceedings, then it should have recourse to Standing Order 6(8) which states as follows -

*"It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk to provide every Select Committee of the Assembly with a Clerk and, if so required by the Committee, a shorthand writer".*

You will recall that the Constitution Reform Commission adopted this system for very good reasons.

Any change in the rules and practices must be sanctioned by the National Assembly in the form of

amendments to relevant Standing Orders

I shall be very grateful if you bring this matter to the attention to all Members of the Committee.



Sherlock E. Isaacs

Clerk of the National Assembly

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