

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> 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

**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) (Absent)

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 1.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

**(i) Thanks to Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

The Speaker thanked Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, for presiding in his absence.

6.

**(ii) Course offered by British Government**

The Speaker informed Members that the Parliament of the United Kingdom, through the good offices of the British High Commission, Georgetown, had granted the National Assembly two spaces at an upcoming Programme on Parliamentary Democracy for attached Clerks. The Speaker stated that Ms Pamela Binda and Ms Hermina Gilgeours will be attending the programme.

**(iii) Publication of Book by Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.**

The Speaker informed Members that Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P., had published a book aptly entitled “Transformational Leadership” and that at 4.00 p.m., during the suspension of the sitting, Rev. Dr. Gilbert would present copies of his book to the Parliamentary Library.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND  
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

The Speaker’s consent was obtained in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2) for the following matter to be proceeded with at that sitting:

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 71(2)**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 71(2) provides for five (5) days to be allotted for the debate on a motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that the five days allotted by Standing Order No. 71(2) would be inadequate for the debate on the motion for the approval of the 2012 Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure;

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7.

AND WHEREAS recognizing that time was limited, the Government at a meeting of the Parliamentary Management Committee on March 28, 2012, proposed that the sittings commence at 10 a.m. and conclude at 10 p.m.;

AND WHEREAS the APNU proposed that the sittings commence at 1 p.m. and conclude at 10 p.m., and the said meeting of the Parliamentary Management Committee agreed to proceed with the APNU proposition for the period of the general debate of Budget 2012;

AND WHEREAS in response to a request of the opposition for a further extension of time to six (6) days instead of five (5), the Government agreed to propose that the debate be extended accordingly,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 71(2) be suspended to enable the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures for the year 2012 to be extended to six (6) days.

**(Notice Paper No. 46 (M18 Govt 8) published on 2012-04-10)**

The motion was put and carried.

**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)**

8.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine

The Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment

Mr. Deborah Backer

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.40 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Ms Jennifer Wade

**Presiding by Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.**

At 5.45 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. Keith Scott took the Chair.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 6.00 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Ms Jennifer Wade continued and concluded her speech.

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development also spoke to the motion.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

6.53 p.m., the sitting was suspend for refreshments.



9.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

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

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma

The Minister of Health

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 11**

At 9.40 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.

Ms Africo Selman also spoke to the motion.

**Presiding by Bibi Shadick, M.P.**

At 9.42 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Bibi Shadick took the Chair.

**Acting Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 9.55 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Ms Africo Selman continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. Trevor Williams

Mr. Rennis Morian

Mr. Faizal Jaffarally

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11.35 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m., on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

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**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**12<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.**