

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 17TH 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, 24TH JULY, 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

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

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
- 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)
- 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)(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)
- Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.
- Mr. Neendkumar, 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. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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)

(ii) **Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)**

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

Hon. Clement J. Rohee

Mr. Andy Goveia

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence

Mr. Jerome Khan, and

Mrs. Sheila V. A. Holder, for that day's sitting, and

Dr. George Norton, up to 25th July, 2003.

Miss Amna Ally, up to the 8th August.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**For Oral Replies****No. 1 - USE OF BAGASSE TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister responsible for Agriculture the following question:-

*Would the Minister of Agriculture say whether the policy makers of GUYSUCO have studied the benefits to be derived from the use of Bagasse for generating electricity to supply to the national grid and the production of power alcohol as employed by countries such as Cuba, Brazil, Mauritius and more recently Belize?

(Notice Paper No. 26 (Q19 Opp 19) published 2003-02-17)

No. 2 - CO-GENERATION AND POWER ALCOHOL PRODUCTION

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister responsible for Agriculture the following question:-

*Would the Minister of Agriculture say if co-generation and power alcohol production are being considered in efforts being employed by GUYSUCO to make Guyana's sugar industry viable and, if not, why?

(Notice Paper No. 27 (Q20 Opp20) published 2003-02-17)

Oral replies to questions 1 and 2 by the Minister responsible for Agriculture

“Mr. Speaker, I seek your permission to answer both questions together.”

“Mr. Speaker, the answer to both of these questions is, yes. Generation of electricity from bagasse has been considered for a number of years. Recent improvements in technology especially in countries like India have encouraged us to focus on this technology as has been relevant to GUYSUCO and to Guyana.

In-house studies on co-generation are being reviewed. Recently a high powered technical delegation of experts from India visited several of our factories and presented a preliminary report on the potential of generating 2.5 megawatt of electricity from the Albion Factory and also recommended that power alcohol production be considered for the industry. We are awaiting the completion of this final report.”

No. 3 - BAMBOO CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Education the following question:-

*The Primary School at Bamboo Creek in Region 8 was built to accommodate a maximum population of 60 children. It now has a school population of 129 children. Could the Minister say what arrangements are in place to extend the school during this year?

(Notice Paper No. 14(Q7 Opp7) published 2003-02-17)

Oral reply by the Minister of Education

“Mr. Speaker, this question states that the Primary School at Bamboo Creek in Region 8 was built to accommodate the maximum population of sixty children. It now has a school population of one hundred and twenty-nine.

Mr. Speaker, as of July of this year, that is not a true statement. The population of the school is eighty-six. Nonetheless, the school was indeed built in 1997, to alleviate the difficulties of children walking miles to Paramakatoi to attend classes. The present state of overcrowding, that is, children over sixty that are there, is due to the introduction of a nursery class. This year, the Region intends to erect a building for the nursery school.”

For Written Reply**No. 4 - PROCUREMENT SUPPLIES FOR GUYSUCO**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister responsible for Agriculture the following question:

Please list which companies/firms/agencies have won tenders or have been suppliers for the procurement of GUYSUCO factory equipment, agriculture machinery, vehicles, spare parts, fertilizers, drugs and other purchases as well as the related cost thereof per company/firm for the period since the beginning of the Booker/Tate management contract to the present time.

(Notice Paper No. 33 (Q26 Opp26) published 2003-02-17)

Written reply by the Minister responsible for Agriculture

“Such records are kept for a statutory period of seven (7) years. It should be noted that Guysuco processes over four hundred (400) orders per month covering a range of forty-five thousand (45,000) stock items. To provide this information will utilize a considerable amount of time.

Guysuco does have well regulated procurement procedures that are audited regularly. There are two levels at which tender awards are made. One is at the estate senior management level, while the other is at the Board of Directors level. No significant breaches of procedures have been reported by Guysuco’s auditors”.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Presentation and First Reading****No. 1 - VETERINARIANS BILL 2003 - Bill No. 14/2003 published on 2003-07-30**

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration and control of veterinarians and animal health assistants; to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Circulated)

No. 2 - ANIMALS (MOVEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION) BILL 2003 -
Bill No. 15/2003 published on 2003-07-30

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to control the movement of animals into and from Guyana; to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases within Guyana; to protect and promote animal health and safety; and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION - AUTHORITY TO MAKE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

The Minister of Education moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Article 197 A (5) of the Constitution provides that Disciplined Forces Commissions may be constituted by the National Assembly.

AND WHEREAS on the 16th May, 2003, the National Assembly passed Resolution Number 21 approving the establishment and terms of reference of a Disciplined Forces Commission .

AND WHEREAS the Disciplined Forces Commission has been constituted and has commenced its work.

BE IT RESOLVED:

that the National Assembly authorizes the Disciplined Forces Commission to take all steps and make all decisions in connection with the administrative aspects of the work of the Disciplined Forces Commission, including but not limited to, the establishment of a Secretariat, to enable it to discharge its mandate as provided for in the aforesaid Resolution.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that the National Assembly approves all such steps already taken by the Disciplined Forces Commission in connection with the aforesaid.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that Mr. Gino Peter Persaud, State Council attached to the Attorney General's Chambers, be and is hereby appointed Secretary to the Disciplined Forces Commission.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that a quorum shall consist of the Chairman and two Members, one of whom was nominated by the President and one of whom was nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

(Notice Paper No. 50(M23 Govt22) published 2003-07-23)

The following Member spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

The motion was put and carried.

Bills - Second Reading:

ITEM 2 - MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING (SUPPRESSION) BILL 2003 - Bill
No. 8/2003 published on 2003-06-21

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government,
moved the second reading of 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.

(Read a first time on 2003-05-26)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman

Mr. Doodnauth Singh

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4:08 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs 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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

Mrs. Deborah Backer moved the following amendment:

Clause 2 (a) “delete the word ‘or’ after the words Police Force and insert after the words Guyana Defence Force the the words “or members of the Customs Anti Narcotics Unit”.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 2 was passed as printed.

Clauses 3 to 22 were passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression) Bill 2003 was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL 2003 – Bill No. 9/2003
published on 2003-07-04

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2003-07-10)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin

Mr. Ravindra Devi

Mr. Dereck Bernard

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Mr. Lance Carberry

Mr. Vincent Allexander

Mrs. Shirley V. Melville

The Hon. Minister of Health

Thereafter, the Minister of Legal Affairs 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.

Committee

Clauses 1 to 17 with the schedule were passed on the following division:

For

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

Miss Allen

Miss David

Mr. Ally

Mrs. Bancroft

Mr. R. Khan

Mr. Kadir

Miss Nestor

Mr. McAllister

Miss Peterkin

Miss Adams

Dr. Joseph

Mr. Williams

Mr. Trotman

Mr. Alexander

Mrs. Backer

Mr. Allen

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Corbin

For

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Mustapha

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Dr. Ramsarran

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. DeSantos

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Miss Rodrigues

Mr. Nadir

Miss Shadick

Mr. Xavier

Dr. Westford

Mr. Sawh

Mr. Collymore

Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Gajraj

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Kowlessar

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Persaud

Mr. Hinds

Assembly Resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Constitution (Amendment)(No. 2) Bill No. 9 was read the third time and passed as printed on the following division:

<u>For</u>	<u>For</u>
Mr. Dev	Mr. Neendkumar
	Mr. Mustapha
	Mrs. Sukhai
	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mrs. Melville	Dr. Ramsarran
Miss Allen	Mr. Rajkumar
Miss David	Mr. Mohan
Mr. Ally	Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Bancroft	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. R. Khan	Mr. DeSantos
Mr. Kadir	
Miss Nestor	Mr. Chand
Mr. McAllister	Mr. Alli
Miss Peterkin	Mr. Ramotar
	Mr. Belgrave
Miss Adams	Mr. Mohamed
	Dr. Ramsammy
Dr. Joseph	Miss Rodrigues
	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Williams	Miss Shadick
Mr. Trotman	Mr. Xavier
Mr. Alexander	Dr. Westford
	Mr. Sawh
	Mr. Collymore
	Dr. Bisnauth
	Mr. Gajraj
	Mr. Baksh
	Mr. Kowlessar
Mrs. Backer	
Mr. Allen	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Carberry	Mr. Nokta
Mrs. Riehl	
	Mr. Persaud
Mr. Corbin	Mr. Hinds

ITEM 4 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (No. 3) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 10/2003
published on 2003-07-04

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2003-07-10)

(Circulated)

ITEM 5 - SUGAR LEVY (REPEAL) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 11/2003
published on 2003-07-04

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to repeal the Sugar Levy Act.

(Read a first time on 2003-07-10)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Mr. Ravindra Devi

Mr. Komal Chand

The Hon. Minister Tourism, Industry and Commerce

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Sugar Levy Bill 2003 was read the third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.32 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.**

24th July, 2003.