

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 18<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 MONDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 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

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 (Absent - on leave)

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) (Absent)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and  
Social Security (Absent)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and  
Regional Development (Absent)

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 (Absent)  
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. (Absent)  
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.  
Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)(Absent)  
Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.  
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
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)(Absent)  
Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Absent)  
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. (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.

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)(Absent)

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.

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. (Absent - on leave)

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawatie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.04 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 Culture, Youth and Sports,

Mr. Odinga Lumumba for that day's sitting,

Mrs. Deborah Backer up to the 26<sup>th</sup> August,

Mr. Basil Williams for that day's sitting, and

Mr. Ravindra Devi up to the 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**No. 1 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT)(No. 2) Bill 2003 - Bill No. 16/2003  
published on 2003-07-30**

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the Tax Act, the Consumption Tax Act, the Travel Voucher Tax Act, the Income Tax Act, the Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act, and the Customs Act to institute certain tax policy reforms as regards remission of tax, the reduction of tax rates and allowing tax administration resources to be used more efficiently.

(Circulated)

**No. 2 - INVESTMENT BILL 2003 - Bill No. 17/2003 published on 2003-07-30**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for the rendering into law of the principles and practices that inform our present approach to investment.

(Circulated)



**No. 3 - SMALL BUSINESS BILL 2003 - Bill No. 18/2003 published on 2003-07-30**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for an incentive regime and support programme for small business; the establishment of the Small Business Council, the Small Business Bureau, the Small Business Development Fund and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Circulated)

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****MOTION****ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF REPORTS, EVIDENCE AND MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT**

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following motion was deferred:-

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order 76(1) every Select Committee shall before the end of the session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee, a Sessional Select Committee, of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eighth Parliament, was unable, owing to the prorogation of Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, to report on its examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and the Accounts of the Ministries, Departments, and Regions for the fiscal years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2000, referred to it in that Session:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament take into account -

- (i) the abovementioned Reports of the Auditor General;
- (ii) the evidence and Minutes in respect of the examination of these reports; and
- (iii) make a report to the National Assembly on the examination of these Reports.

(Notice Paper No. 51(M24 Opp2) published 2003-07-30)

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2003.



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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> August, 2003.**