

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 22<sup>ND</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, 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 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

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 - on leave)

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.

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.

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

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)

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)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.

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.

**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 2.05 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(i) **Interim Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission**

The Speaker announced that by a way of a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2003, the Disciplined Forces Commission had sought his permission for an extension of the deadline for the submission of its Interim Report on the Guyana Police Force to the National Assembly.

The Speaker stated that since the Commission had been requested by the National Assembly to submit the Report, the Assembly's permission would have to be obtained for the extension requested and that at the appropriate time the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would move the motion seeking the Assembly's permission for the extension to be granted.

(ii) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal up to 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2003,

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Lance Carberry

Mr. Jerome Khan

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

and

Ms Myrna Peterkin for that day's sitting.

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

(1) By the **Speaker of the National Assembly:**

Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31 December, 2002.

(Circulated)

(2) By the **Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:**

(i) The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee Annual Review 2002.

(Circulated)

(ii) Protocol and Recommendations which were adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 90<sup>th</sup> Session held in June, 2002.

(a) Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981.

(b) Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002, No. 193.

(c) The list of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002, No. 194.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport:

Fourth Report of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions.

(Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Financial Paper No. 4/2003 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period July 31, 2003 to November 17, 2003.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 5/2003 - Supplementary Provision (Capital) for the period ending December 31, 2003.

(Circulated)

### **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-**

#### **For Written replies**

#### **No. 1 - FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following question:

Can the Honourable Minister say when would the vacancies in the Department of Co-operatives, many of which date back to 1999, be filled?

**(Notice Paper No. 52 (Q28 Opp28) published on 2003-08-22)**

7.

**Written reply submitted by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:**

The vacant positions in the Department of Cooperatives have been filled.

**No. 2 - REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MR. MELVIN EDWARDS**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following question:

Can the Honourable Minister say when will the Report and Recommendations of Mr. Melvin Edwards, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Consultant on Co-operatives, be laid in the National Assembly?

**(Notice Paper No. 53 (Q29 Opp29) published on 2003-08-22)**

**Written reply submitted by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:**

Mr. Melville Edwards, erstwhile ILO Consultant on Cooperatives, was helping the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, to formulate a policy on Cooperatives. He has submitted to the Ministry, an unfinished draft policy paper. The Ministry has been trying to contact Mr. Edwards who needs to return to Guyana to complete his work. Our information is that Mr. Edwards is no longer the ILO Consultant on Cooperatives.

When the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security would have formulated a policy on Cooperatives, it would be presented to the National Assembly.

**No. 3 - ILLEGAL BRAZILIAN MINERS**

Ms Judith David asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following question:

Can the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs say whether he is aware of illegal Brazilian miners operating in Guyana?

**(Notice Paper No. 59 (Q35 Opp35) published on 2003-08-22)**

**Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs:**

The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs is aware that Non-Nationals are operating without work permits in the Mining areas of Guyana. According to the functioning Officers the number should be approximately one hundred such persons.

For the period January 1 to October 31, 2003, one thousand, two hundred and thirty (1,230) Non-Nationals applied for work permits in the Mining Sector. Work permits were issued to one thousand, two hundred and twenty five persons (1,225). During the said period two regularization exercises involving members of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Police & Immigration) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission were conducted in the Middle Mazaruni District. Three hundred and nine person were regularized and issued with work permits.

**No. 4 - GUYANA LANDS AND SURVEYS COMMISSION**

Ms Judith David asked the Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock the following question:

Can the Honourable Minister say why there is no Regional Representative for Region #7 on the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission?

(Notice Paper No. 66 (Q42 Opp42) published on 2003-08-22)

**Written reply submitted by the Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock:**

The Schedule pursuant to Section 7(2) of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission Act 1999 at paragraph 1 stipulates that:

“The Board shall consist of a Chairman, the Commissioner and eleven other members all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister.”

THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE in the Official Gazette dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2001 listed the names of the Board Members.

It is to be noted that the Board is constituted not along regional lines, but comprises of persons or representatives that have common interest with the Commission and would aid the Commission in carrying out its functions under the Act.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

#### **Presentation and First Reading**

#### **ITEM1- LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 20/2003 published on 2003-11-04**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

**(Read a first time on 2003-11-24)**

#### **ITEM2 - DEMERARA MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2003 - Bill No. 12/2003 published on 2003-08-23**

Mr. Cyril Belgrave presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ordinance.

**(Read a first time on 2003-11-24)**

**ITEM 3 - GUYANA FREE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH BILL 2003 - Bill No. 13/2003 published on 2003-09-06**

Mr. Cyril Belgrave presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT for the incorporation of the Church known as the Guyana Free Protestant Episcopal Church.

(Read a first time on 2003-11-24)

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 4 - INTERIM REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. 21 dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, the National Assembly approved of the establishment of a Disciplined Forces Commission to enquire into the Disciplined Forces, that is, the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana Prison and the Guyana Fire Services, and all their Branches, Departments and Units focusing on making recommendations for their reform, sustained professional development and structure;

AND WHEREAS the Commission was required to present an Interim Report to the National Assembly within 3 months of its establishment, that is, on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2003;

AND WHEREAS public hearings were concluded with respect to the Guyana Police Force on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2003;

AND WHEREAS owing to the frequent and extensive hearings conducted, the Commission it was unable to submit its Interim Report to the National Assembly on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the Commission has requested an extension of the deadline for the submission of the Interim Report from 18<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2003.

**RESOLVED,**

That this National Assembly approves of an extension of the deadline for the submission of the Interim Report on the Guyana Police Force from the 18<sup>th</sup> November to the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2003.

**(Notice Paper No.78 (M27 Govt25) published on 2003-11-19)**

Mr. Raphael Trotman spoke to the motion.

While the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was relying, the sitting was suspended by the Speaker

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 2.16 p.m., the Speaker suspended the sitting due to a disruption which was caused by the ringing of a Cellular phone in the Chamber.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3.44 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 5 - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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

RESOLVED,

That this National Assembly adopts the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President the names of Mr. David Leslie L. Melville and Dr. Kissoon as its choice to be appointed Members of the Public Service Commission in accordance with Article 200 (1)(b) of the Constitution.

**(Notice Paper No.80 (M29 Govt27) published on 2003-11-19)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl  
Mrs. Sheila Holder  
Mr. James McAllister  
The Minister of Health

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport replied.

The following corrections were moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport:

**Clause 3**

Delete "agreed that" and insert "proceeded to implement the Parliament's decision-"

**Clause 3**

- (i) Insert after “nominations” the following “by August 8, 2003.”
- (ii) Delete “and decide on the two” and insert “in making their.”

**Clause 5**

Delete the last sentence “However, on account of the recess of Parliament, no further action was taken on the matter by the Committee until it met on the 11<sup>th</sup> November for the first time after the recess.”

Delete **clauses 9 and 10.**

Insert as clause 9 the following:

“The Committee began to consider the submissions on the 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2003 and reached agreement on one of the two nominees. However, on account of the recess of Parliament, no further action was taken on the matter by the Committee until its first meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November after the recess.”

Insert as clause 10 the following:

“On this occasion, the Committee decided to bring this matter to finality. A motion was moved proposing a vote be taken. This was accepted by the majority and the Committee then voted to elect the second nominee.”

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

14.

**DECLINED  
TO VOTE**

**FOR**

	Mr. Dev	Mr. Needkumar
		Mr. Mustapha
		Mrs. Sukhai
		Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
	Mrs. Melville	
	Mrs. Holder	Mr. Ramjattan
		Mr. Rajkumar
		Mr. Mohan
		Mr. Lumumba
		Mrs. Edwards
Miss David		
Mr. Ally		
Mrs. Bancroft		
Mr. R. Khan		Mr. Chand
Mr. Kadir		Mr. Alli
Miss Nestor		Mr. Ramotar
Mr. McAllister		Mr. Belgrave
		Mr. Mohamed
		Dr. Ramsammy
		Miss Rodrigues
Miss Adams		Mr. Nadir
		Miss Shadick
Dr. Joseph		Mr. Xavier
		Dr. Westford
Dr. Hanoman		Mr. Sawh
Mr. Williams		Mr. Collymore
		Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Alexander

Mr. Ming

Mrs. Backer

Mr. Allen

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Murray

Mr. Gajraj

Mr. Baksh

Mr. Kowlessar

Dr. Jeffrey

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Persaud

Mr. Hinds

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**Death of wife of the Hon. Clinton Collymore**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended deepest sympathy to the Hon. Collymore on the death of his wife, the late Mrs. Reenie Rambarran.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

**HARI N. RAMKARRAN**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**24<sup>th</sup> November, 2003**