

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 28TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2004
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)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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.

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.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

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. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

*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)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

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

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

(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 2.14 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Hon. Doodnauth Singh for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

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

Minutes of Proceedings of the 8th meeting of the Committee of Selection of the Second Session held on Thursday, 25th March, 2004.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Audit Bill 2004 - Bill No. 5/2004.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Guyana and the Government of the United States of America regarding the surrender of persons to the International Criminal Court.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL- Report from Select Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - AUDIT BILL 2004 - Bill No. 5/2004 published on 2003-03-11

On a motion by the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The report of the Special Select Committee on the Audit Bill 2004, was adopted, and
- (ii) The Audit Bill 2004 which was read a third time was passed as amended.

MOTION

ITEM 2 - BUDGET SPEECH 2004 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2004

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2004-03-29)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

The Minister of Housing and Water

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.43 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

While the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security was speaking, the Speaker suspended the sitting due to a power outage.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.27 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security continued and concluded her speech.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.57 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.47 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha

Mr. Husman Alli

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 14th April, 2004.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

13th April, 2004.