

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 37TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 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

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 - on leave)

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

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

* 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)

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 (Absent)

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)

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)

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)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

*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 - on leave)

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

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

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

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

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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) (Absent - on leave)

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) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)(Absent - on leave)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

27 Members of the People's National Congress Reform (PNCR) for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(i) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the proceedings of the 9th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 22nd July, 2004.

(Circulated)

(ii) By the Minister of Education:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2003.

(Circulated)

(iii) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 1/2004 - Supplementary Provision on the (Capital) estimates totalling \$330,000,000 for the period ending 2004-12-31.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Oral reply

1. **INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

Mrs. Sheila Holder asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

*Would the Minister of Foreign Affairs say when the Government of Guyana lodged instruments of ratification with the International Criminal Court of Justice?

(Notice Paper No. 85 (Q49 Opp 49) published on 2004-02-02)

Oral reply received from Minister of Foreign Affairs:

The Government of Guyana has not yet lodged any instruments of ratification with the International Criminal Court.

6.

The Government signed the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court on December 28, 2000; however the Statute has not yet been ratified.

A Parliamentary Motion has been submitted for ratification of the said convention, after which the appropriate instruments will be laid.

For Written reply

2. **SUGAR INDUSTRY LABOUR WELFARE FUND**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan asked the Minister of Labour, Human services and Social Security the following questions:

Could the Minister -

- (i) State the amount of moneys paid into the Treasury by the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for each of the years for the period 1994 to 2003?
- (ii) State the amount of moneys disbursed by the Treasury from the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund for each of the years for the period 1994 to 2003?
- (iii) State whether the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund is indebted to the Guyana Sugar Corporation and, if so, the amount of the debt at the end of 2003?
- (iv) State whether Committees for the Sugar Industry Labour Price Stabilisation Fund and the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund were appointed and, if not, why not? If not appointed can the Honourable Minister say when these Committees were last appointed?

(Notice Paper No. 114 (Q56 Govt1) published on 2004-06-30)

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

(i) The following amounts were paid:

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
1994	117,884,665
1995	102,472,500
1996	125,751,500
1997	121,584,000
1998	162,066,100
1999	135,471,075
2000	138,724,885
2001	127,233,000
2002	141,018,000
2003	157,682,500

(ii) The following amounts were disbursed:

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
1994	60,114,514.06
1995	154,114,564.51
1996	98,576,559.00
1997	140,476,802.00
1998	190,338,853.00
1999	183,479,748.00
2000	147,846,876.00
2001	151,497,614.00
2002	106,217,161.00
2003	142,368,773.00

- (iii) Yes. The amount owing to GUYSUCO is \$97,056,804.51. This amount represents expenditure incurred by GUYSUCO on behalf of the SILWF for security, fuel, etc., for operating the SILWF'S pure water supply system.
- (iv) The Committee have not been appointed. They were last appointed in the 1980s. The sums allocated under the Special Funds Act have been so minuscule that it seemed pointless to establish the Committees.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation made the following statements concerning:

- (i) **The Interim Report of the WTO Panel on the European Community's Sugar Subsidies**; and
- (ii) **Recently Concluded Negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

- 1. **COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL2004 - Bill No. 12/ 2004 published on 2004-07-27**

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide comprehensive measures to combat trafficking in persons.

9.

2. **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND BILL 2004 - Bill No. 13/2004**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish an infrastructure development fund, to provide for its funding and due administration and for purposes connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Rome Statute for the establishment of the International Criminal Court was adopted in Rome on July 17, 1998 and entered into force on June 1, 2003 in accordance with the provisions of Article 126;

AND WHEREAS the Statute was signed by the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Guyana on December 28, 2000;

AND WHEREAS Article 125 of the said Statute makes provision for the deposit of the instruments of Ratification with the Secretary General of the United Nations.

NOW THEREFORE the Government of the Republic of Guyana having considered the Statute hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein.

RESOLVED,

That this National Assembly agrees to the Secretary General of the United Nations being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and for the Government of Guyana to formally ratify the said Statute by depositing the Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 115 (M56 Govt52) published on 2004-07-29)

Mrs. Sheila Holder spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 2 - FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

2004 - Bill No. 11/2004 published on 2004-07-22

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and
Accountability Act 2003.

(Read a first time on 2004-07-22)

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.54 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN. S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

5th August, 2004