

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 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 (Absent - on leave)

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) (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 (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

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 - on leave)

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 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

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

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water (absent)

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)

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)

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. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Miss Amna 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)

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 - on leave)

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) (Absent - on leave)

(iii) **Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Maurice B. Henry, Head of Committees Division

Mr. Rawle Small, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (a.g.)

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.07 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Head of Committees Division read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Performing duties of Clerk of the National Assembly**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly was on leave and, during his absence, Mr. Maurice B. Henry, Head of the Committees Division had been performing his duties.

(ii) **Deaths of Mr. Ramdial Bhookmohan and Mr. Patrick Denny**

The Speaker referred to the recent deaths of Mr. Ramdial Bhookmohan and Mr. Patrick Denny and stated that the late Mr. Ramdial Bhookmohan was a Member of the Constitution Reform Commission established under the Constitution Reform Commission Act 1999 as a representative of the Private Sector. His services were invaluable to the work of the Commission, specifically in the areas of fundamental rights and the role of the private enterprise in the development of the country.

The late Patrick Denny was well known to all Members of the National Assembly as a journalist. In addition to his being a journalist with special responsibility for the National Assembly, he was also the Managing Editor of Stabroek News, one of the leading newspapers in Guyana. He had a very distinguished career as a public servant and a political worker and, in more recent years, had established himself as a journalist and editor of great distinction.

On behalf of Members of the National Assembly and his own behalf, he expressed sincere condolences to the relatives of the late Ramdial Bhookmohan and Patrick Denny.

(iii) **Expression of Sympathy to the Speaker**

Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud took the opportunity, on behalf of Members of the National Assembly to extend sympathy to the Speaker on the passing of his dear and beloved brother, Muni.

He also extended condolences to the relatives of both the late Mr. Bhookmohan and Mr. Denny, both men were well known to him and to the Assembly.

(iv) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds for that day's sitting

Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, up to 15th December, 2004

Mr. Komal Chand, up to 3rd December, 2004

and

Mrs. Shirley Melville for that day's sitting

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce made a statement concerning the error made on the part of the management and staff of the Guyana National Printers Limited where on November 6, 2004, in the Legal Supplement - B of the Official Gazette, where appeared the Notification made under the Public Holidays Act (CAP 19:07) that declared Friday, November 12, 2004 a public holiday for Deepavali. That Notice was published and the signature of Mr. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., appeared on this Notice as Minister of Home Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Presentation and First Readings****ITEM 1 - BANK OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 20/2004**

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 amend the Bank of Guyana Act 1998.

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 21/2004

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 amend the Financial Institutions Act 1995.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 29th November, 2004



HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

22nd November, 2004.