

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> 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, 29<sup>TH</sup> 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

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 (Absent)

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

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 (Absent - on leave)

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)

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) (Absent)

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.

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)

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

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.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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) (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) (Absent - on leave)

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) (Absent)

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

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

**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 2.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Head of Committees Division read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Anthony Xavier

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Deryck Bernard

and

Miss Myrna Peterkin for that day's sitting

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

The Minister of Finance presented the following Financial Papers:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 2/2004 - Supplementary Provision on the (Current and Capital) estimates totalling \$1,187,695,200 for the period 2004-07-29 to 2004-11-15.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 3/2004 - Supplementary Provision on the (Capital) estimates totalling \$1,599,782,306 for the period ending 2004-12-31.

(Circulated)

He thereafter, named the next sitting as the day on which to proceed with the Financial Papers in the Committee of Supply.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**AGE OF CONSENT BILL 2004 - Bill No. 22/2004**

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 amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act and the Marriage Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**BILLS - Second and Third Readings**

**ITEM 1 - BANK OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 20/2004 published on 2004-11-16**

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Bank of Guyana Act 1998.

*(Read a first time on 2004-11-22)*

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mrs. Sheila Holder

and

The Minister of Housing and Water

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**In Committee**

**Clause 1 was passed as printed.**

**Clause 2**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Insert immediately after paragraph (b) the following-

7.

“(bb) by the insertion immediately after subsection (2A) of the following as subsection (2B)  
‘(2B) The substantive offices of Governor and Deputy Governor shall not remain  
vacant for a period in excess of six months of becoming vacant.’”

The amendment was put and carried.

The following amendment by Mr. Jerome Khan was put and negatived:

by the insertion in section 9(1) of the following paragraph after the word, “Board”-

“(d) one of whom shall be a nominee of the major parliamentary opposition party.”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

**Clauses 3 to 7** were passed as printed.

### **Clause 8**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment:

Insert immediately after clause 7 the following-

“Insertion of new section 58A in the Principal Act. 8. The Principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after section 58 of the following as section 58A-

‘Internationally accepted accounting standards. 58A. The Board shall at all time ensure that the books and records of the Bank, including its financial statements are prepared and maintained in conformity with internationally accepted accounting standards.’”

8.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 8 was then passed as amended.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Bank of Guyana (Amendment) Bill - Bill No. 20/2004 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 21/2004**  
**published on 2004-11-16**

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Financial Institutions Act 1995.

*(Read a first time on 2004-11-22)*

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Jerome Khan

and

Minister of Housing and Water



Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 5** were passed as printed.

**Clause 6**

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

For the word "sixty" substitute the word "thirty".

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2004 - Bill No. 21/2004 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.00 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.**

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2004.**