

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 55TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, 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 (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

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 - 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) (Absent)

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.

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

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. (Absent)

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

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. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

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)

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

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

OFFICERS

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Maurice B. Henry, Head Committees Division

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Deputy Clerk read prayers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

**BUDGET SPEECH 2005 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES
OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2005**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2005.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2005-02-21)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

071 National Assembly

Div. 505 - Code 25003 Parliament Building

13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

131 Main Office

132 Ministry Administration

133 Regional Development

Div. 527 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

711 Regional Administration and Finance

712 Public Works

713 Education Delivery

714 Health Services

Div. 531 Region 1: Barima/Waini

72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

721 Regional Administration and Finance

722 Agriculture

723 Public Works

724 Education Delivery

725 Health Services

Div. 532 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam

73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

731 Regional Administration and Finance

732 Agriculture

733 Public Works

734 Education Delivery

735 Health Services

Div. 533 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara

74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

741 Regional Administration and Finance

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education Delivery

745 Health Services

Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

754 Education Delivery

755 Health Services

Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

76- REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

Programme 764 was considered, but on the proposal for its approval a division was claimed.

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.05 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The proposal for approval of Programme 764 was put and carried on the following division:-

AGAINST

Mrs. Melville
Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. Kadir

FOR

Mr. Mustapha
Mrs. Sukhai
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Edwards

Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Chand
Mr. Alli
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Belgrave

8.

Mr. McAllister
Miss Peterkin
Dr. Norton
Mr. J. Khan

Miss Ally

Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Williams
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Alexander

Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen

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Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues
Mr. Nadir
Miss Shadick

Dr. Westford
Mr. Sawh
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth

Mr. Kowlessar

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

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Thereafter the remaining Programme and Division under the Agency were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

765 Health Services

Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

771 Regional Administration and Finance

772 Public Works

773 Education Delivery

774 Health Services

Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

781 Regional Administration and Finance

782 Public Works

783 Education Delivery

784 Health Services

Div. 538 Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni

79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

791 Regional Administration and Finance

792 Agriculture

793 Public Works

794 Education Delivery

795 Health Services

Div. 539 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE

801 Regional Administration and Finance

802 Public Works

803 Education Delivery

804 Health Services

Div. 540 Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

031 Ministry Administration

The following correction was made:

Substitute for "Staffing Details" on page 43 the undermentioned:-

STAFFING DETAILS					
COA	Description	Authorised		Filled	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
6111	Administrative	34	29	7	7
6112	Senior Technical	30	21	0	0
6113	Other Technical and Craft Skilled	33	36	15	15
6114	Clerical and Office Support	72	65	23	33
6115	Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled	28	31	14	17
6116	Contracted Employees			14	13
6117	Temporary Employees			15	1
	Total	197	182	88	86

032 Accountant General

The following correction was made in "Staffing Details" on page 45:

For 6116 substitute the figures "10" and "12" for "16" and "11", respectively, and opposite **TOTAL** substitute the figures "133" and "131" for "139" and "130", respectively.

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Div. 526 Ministry of Finance

08 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

081 Office of the Auditor General

Div. 505 - Codes 12001, 25001, 44001 Auditor General

90 - PUBLIC DEBT

901 Public Debt

45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

451 Housing and Water

Div. 523 Ministry of Housing and Water

Div. 530 Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing

Div. 552 Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated

21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

211 Ministry Administration

212 Crops and Livestock Support Services

213 Fisheries

214 Hydro-Meteorological Services

Div. 508 Ministry of Agriculture

Div. 509 Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project

Div. 510 Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III

Div. 512 Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fisheries

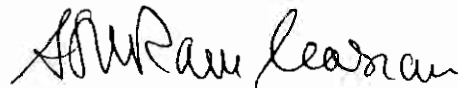
51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force
- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Office
- Div. 507 Ministry of Home Affairs

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.45 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 10th March, 2005.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

9th March, 2005.