

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 59TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 14TH APRIL, 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

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 (Absent)

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

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) (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.

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

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

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

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.

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 - on leave)

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

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Acting Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Maurice B. Henry, Head Committees Division

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

and

Mr. Ivor Allen for that day's sitting,

Mr. Stanley Ming, up to 22nd April, 2005,

Mr. Raphael Trotman, up to the 30th April, 2005,

Miss Amna Ally,

5.

Miss Sandra Adams,
Miss Myrna Peterkin,
Miss Lurlene Nestor
and
Mrs. Shirley Melville for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Health:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Ministry of Health Bill 2004 -
Bill No.24 /2004.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Geographical Constituency Seats:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Geographical Constituency Seats.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Oral Replies:

The following questions for replies by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs were on the Order Paper in the name of Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.-

1. **VALIDATION BILL - BILL NO. 5/2001**

*Would the Minister say what is the status of Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001 titled Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Constitutional and Proceedings) Validation Bill?

(Notice Paper No. 89 (Q53 Opp53) published on 2004-02-02)

2. **REGIONAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

*Would the Minister say when Members of the National Assembly who are representing geographical constituencies were sent their copies of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Bill, which was debated and passed in the National Assembly on the 15th December, 2003?

(Notice Paper No. 90 (Q54 Opp54) published on 2004-02-02)

Oral replies by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:

In the absence of Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., from her seat, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs volunteered the following replies:

1. **Validation Bill - Bill No. 5/2001**

The Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Constitution and Proceedings) Validation Bill - Bill No. 5/2001, was quashed when the National Assembly was prorogued on 27th November, 2002 to allow sittings of the National Assembly to be held at the Ocean View Convention Centre.

The Opposition had certain reservations about the Bill and they were discussions between Government and the Opposition. Those discussions were not concluded.

2. **Regional Members of Parliament**

Due to the difficulties being faced by the Parliament Office in getting parliamentary documents to Members of Parliament at Bartica, the Essequibo Coast and Berbice, their documents are usually delivered to them upon their arrival in Georgetown to attend sittings of the National Assembly and meetings of Committees.

7.

Unfortunately, because of this unsatisfactory arrangement, some of the Regional Members of Parliament received their copies of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Bill on 15th December, 2003.

For Written Replies:

3. **MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (ag) the following question:

What measures will the Government introduce to reduce the number of illegal firearms in circulation?

(Notice Paper No. 132 (Q69 Opp68) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (ag)

Efforts to reduce the number of illegal firearms in circulation are based on intelligence gathering, enhanced scrutiny at our borders and sound police work. These efforts have been paying off.

Nevertheless, the campaign is on-going as the countries of the entire hemisphere have signaled their concerns over stopping these weapons from entering their societies and contributing to an increase in more violent criminal activities.

The Quito Declaration in Ecuador, November 2004, called on those countries which manufacture these weapons to strengthen their control measures regarding sale and export.

4. **ACQUISITION OF PATROL BOATS AND AIRCRAFT FOR THE GUYANA POLICE SERVICE**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (ag) the following question:

What plans are there to acquire patrol boats and aircraft for use by the Guyana Police Service?

(Notice Paper No. 135 (Q72 Opp71) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (ag):

The Capital Programme annually makes provision for capital items based on available resources and Parliament approves the expenditure.

5. **AIR-WING OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (ag) the following question:

When will the air-wing of the Guyana Police Force be established?

(Notice Paper No. 136 (Q73 Opp72) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (ag):

There are on-going discussions on the matter and a timing and budgetary resources have not been identified.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

EXCISE TAX BILL 2005 - Bill No. 4/2005 published on 2005-04-11

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce on behalf of the Minister of Finance,
presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the imposition and collection of
Excise Tax.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Report from Select Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH BILL 2004 - Bill No. 24/2004 published on 2004-12-02

The Minister of Health moved the following motion:

That the report of the Special Select Committee on the Ministry of Health Bill 2004, be
adopted.

The motion was put and carried.

Thereafter, the Ministry of Health Bill 2004 was read a third time and passed as amended.

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 2 - VALUE-ADDED TAX BILL 2005 - Bill No. 3/2005 published on 2005-03-12

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce on behalf of the Minister of Finance
moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the imposition and collection of
Value-Added Tax.

(Read a first time on 2005-03-10)

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Housing and Water,

Mr. Jerome Khan

and

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation.


Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The question was then **put** and **carried**.

The Bill was read a second time and, on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, was referred to a Select Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.47 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 21st April, 2005.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

14th April, 2005.