

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 62ND 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, 19TH MAY, 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 - on leave)

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water (Absent)

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) (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 (Absent - on leave)
- * 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) (Absent)
- ** 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 (Absent)
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. , Leader of the Opposition

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 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Dagleish 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) (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) (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) (Absent - on leave)

(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 2.06 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Rudolph Insanally, up to 24th May, 2005,

Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar,

Mr. E. Lance Carberry,

Mrs. Volda Lawrence,

Mr. Basil Williams,

Miss Sandra Adams,

5.

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

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Written Reply

COMPENSATION GIVEN TO VICTIMS OF FIRE

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following questions:

Can the Minister say -

- (i) During the period 2001 - October, 2004, how many victims of fire were given compensation and/or tax and duty concessions by the Government of Guyana, and what was the criteria used to identify such victims?
- (ii) What was the average value of the benefit received?

(Notice Paper No. 169 (Q102 Opp97) published on 2004-12-03)

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

- (i) The Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security is one of at least three agencies that gave financial support to the victims of fire during the period 2000 to October, 2004. Two other agencies are the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the President.

6.

The Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security provided support through its Difficult Circumstances Programme.

During the period 2001 to October, 2004, that Programme provided assistance to 51 persons, to the tune of \$298,042.00.

These persons were certified by the Guyana Fire Service as bona fide victims of fire. The Ministry's assistance was essentially a crisis response to immediate need. More substantial assistance came from the other agencies.

- (ii) The average benefit given was \$5,843.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE INCREASE IN GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES SEATS

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P., Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Increase in Geographical Constituencies Seats moved the following motion:

RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Geographical Constituencies Seats be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 183 (M78 Govt 72) published on 2005-05-12)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Feroze Mohamed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin,

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce,

7.

Mr. Vincent Alexander,
The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation,
Mrs. Sheila Holder
and
Mr. Ravindra Dev.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.02 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.37 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Donald Ramotar the Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Increase in Geographical Constituencies Seats replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Dev
Mrs. Holder
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. Kadir
Mr. McAllister
Dr. Norton
Miss Ally
Mr. Alexander
Mrs. Backer

FOR

Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Mustapha
Mrs. Sukhai
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. DeSantos
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Chand

8.

Mr. Allen
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

Mr. Alli
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Belgrave
Mr. Mohamed
Miss Rodrigues
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Xavier
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

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ADJOURNMENT

At 5.35 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown.

19th May, 2005.