

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 64TH 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, 29TH JUNE, 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 (Absent - on leave performing the functions of the President)

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 (Absent)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

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. 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 (Absent)

- The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
- * 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)
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. J. Ronald Gajraj, 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. , Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

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)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

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 - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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 - on leave)

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

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Prime Minister,

Mr. Robert Corbin,

Mr. E. Lance Carberry,

Miss Myrna Peterkin,

Mr. Abdul Kadir

and

Mrs. Shirley Melville for that day's sitting.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

EU Sugar Regime

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation made the statement on the EU Sugar Regime.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DR. WALTER RODNEY

The Minister of Home Affairs and Culture, Youth and Sport moved the following motion:

WHEREAS on the 13th June, 1980 Dr. Walter Rodney, a distinguished Guyanese scholar, was assassinated by an explosion which occurred in his car at John and Hadfield Streets, Georgetown;

AND WHEREAS Dr. Rodney was at the time of his death, an eminent political leader engaged in a struggle against authoritarian rule for democracy and social justice;

AND WHEREAS there have been calls for a full investigation into the assassination of Dr. Walter Rodney, which have received broad support,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in paying tribute to the memory of this illustrious son of Guyana and on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his untimely and tragic death, support an enquiry being conducted into the circumstance surrounding the death of Dr. Rodney.

(Notice Paper No. 199 (M83 Govt 77) published on 2005-06-22)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder,

Mr. Winston Murray,

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security
and

Mr. Ravindra Dev.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.54 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Deryck Bernard,

Mr. Jerome Khan,

Mr. Donald Ramotar,

Mr. Vincent Alexander,

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation
and

Mr. James McAllister.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs and Culture, Youth and Sport replied.

Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Winston Murray:

1st Whereas Clause

- (i) Delete the word “assassinated” and insert the word “killed”;
- (ii) After the word “scholar”, add the words “and champion of the multi-racial working people”.

The amendment was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mrs. Holder
 Miss Allen
 Miss David
 Mr. Ally
 Mrs. Bancroft
 Mr. R. Khan
 Mr. McAllister
 Dr. Norton
 Mr. J. Khan
 Miss Adams
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Alexander
 Mr. Bernard
 Mrs. Backer
 Mr. Allen
 Mrs. Riehl
 Mr. Murray

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DECLINED TO VOTE

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
 Mr. Mohamed
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Miss Rodrigues
 Dr. Bisnauth
 Mr. Gajraj
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Persaud

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Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Winston Murray:

2nd Whereas Clause

Delete the second "Whereas clause" in its entirety.

The following amendment was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mrs. Holder
Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. McAllister
Dr. Norton
Mr. J. Khan
Miss Adams
Mr. Williams
Mr. Alexander
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

17

DECLINED TO VOTE

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
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud

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Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Winston Murray:

3rd Whereas Clause

- (i) Insert the words “and impartial” immediately before the word “investigation”;
- (ii) Delete the word “assassination” and insert the word “death”;
- (iii) Immediately before the word “support” delete the word “broad” and insert the words, “local, regional and international”.

The amendment was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mrs. Holder
Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. McAllister
Dr. Norton
Mr. J. Khan
Miss Adams
Mr. Williams
Mr. Alexander
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen

DECLINED TO VOTE

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
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy

10.

Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

Miss Rodrigues
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud

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The following amendment moved by Mrs. Sheila Holder and seconded by Mr. Winston Murray was put and carried:

Resolved Clause

- (i) Insert the word “international” immediately before the word “enquiry”;
- (ii) Insert the words “without delay” immediately after the word “conducted”;
- (iii) Insert the word “Walter” immediately before the word “Rodney”.

Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following amended motion:

“Whereas on the 13th June, 1980 Dr. Walter Rodney, a distinguished Guyanese scholar and champion of the multi-racial working people, was killed by an explosion which occurred in his car at John and Hadfield Streets, Georgetown;

AND WHEREAS there have been calls for a full and impartial investigation into the Death of Dr. Walter Rodney, which have received local, regional and international support,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That This National Assembly, in paying tribute to the memory of this illustrious son of Guyana and on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his untimely and tragic death, support an international enquiry being conducted without delay into the circumstance surrounding the death of Dr. Walter Rodney.”

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

FOR

Mrs. Holder
Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. McAllister
Dr. Norton
Mr. J. Khan
Miss Adams
Mr. Williams
Mr. Alexander
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray

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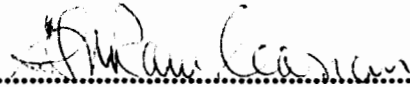
DECLINED TO VOTE

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
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues
Miss Shadick
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud

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ADJOURNMENT

At 6.55 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 7th July, 2005.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

29th June, 2005.