

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 65TH 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, 7TH JULY, 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 (Absent)

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. 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 (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

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)

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 (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)
 Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/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. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Dalglish 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. (Absent)
 Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)
 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)
 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.

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 2.09 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,

Mr. Robert Corbin,

Mr. Winston Murray,

Mrs. Volda Lawrence and

Miss Lurlene Nestor, for that day's sitting

and

Miss Myrna Peterkin, up to 31st August, 2005.

(ii) **Terrorist attacks in London**

The speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, expressed the Assembly's horror and condemnation over the terrorist attacks in London, United Kingdom that morning.

The Speaker also, expressed condolences to the families, relatives and friends of those persons who were injured and killed in the attacks.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

For Oral Replies

1. **POLICE INVESTIGATION AT THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CORPS**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following question:

*Will the Minister say what is the nature of the police investigation currently taking place at the New Opportunity Corps?

(Notice Paper No. 184 (Q103 Opp98) published on 2005-05-27)

Oral reply given by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

“I can only indicate that such knowledge that I have is that made public in the print and electronic media.”

6.

2. **COMPLAINTS ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE AT THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CORPS**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following question:

* Will the Minister say how many complaints have been made by concerned citizens, parents/guardians of inmates and/or inmates of the New Opportunity Corps about sexual abuse at that institution over the years of its establishment?

(Notice Paper No. 185 (Q104 Opp99) published on 2005-05-27)

Oral reply given by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

“The Probation and Family Welfare Service Department of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security has been providing a monthly counselling service to the inmates of the New Opportunity Corps as well as to their parents for twenty (20) years. Over that period, sporadic and isolated complaints of a sexual nature have been made by male inmates of other male inmates threatening sexual misconduct. These complaints have been made to counsellors.”

3. **ALLEGATIONS PERTAINING TO SEXUAL FAVOURS BY FEMALE INMATES**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the following question:

*Will the Minister say if he is aware of allegations pertaining to an illicit arrangement that is, or was, in place at the New Opportunity Corps for the sale of sexual favours of females by staff members at the facility to businessmen operating in the region in which the New Opportunity Corps is situated? If not, will the Minister be willing to investigate this claim further?

(Notice Paper No. 186 (Q105 Opp100) published on 2005-05-27)

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Oral reply given by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

“The answer to this question is no; this Minister is not aware of such allegations. It is not the responsibility of the Minister to investigate such claims.”

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. **NATIONAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 11/2005**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the National Registration Act.

8.

2. **GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION BILL 2005 - Bill No. 12/2005**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the protection of geographical indication in order to fulfill the obligations of Guyana under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World Trade Organisation and related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2005

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$722,501,201 for the period 2005-04-05 to 2005-06-21.

(Notice Paper No.200 (M84 Govt 78) published on 2005-06-23)

(Paper presented on 2005-06-23)

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2005 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$722,501,201 for the period 2005-04-05 to 2005-06-21.

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2005

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2005 - Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totaling \$2,908,382,000 for the period ending 2005-12-31.

(Notice Paper No.201 (M85 Govt 79) published on 2005-06-23)

(Paper presented on 2005-06-23)

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2005 - Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totaling \$2,908,382,000 for the period ending 2005-12-31.

BILL - First, Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 OF 2005) BILL 2005 - Bill No.10/2005 published on 2005-06-23

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 of 2005) Bill 2005 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2005, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

ITEM 4 - FIFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS MATTERS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President that the following persons -

Ms Rosemary Benjamin-Noble

Ms Dawn Edwards

Mrs. Ann Pamela Forde

Mr. Shadiek Ishmael

Ms Lucinda Miller

Ms Bijulee Moti

Ms Magda Lois Muriel Pollard, C.C.H.

Ms Vanda Radzik

Mrs. Indranie Rameshwar

Mrs. Kamla Devi Ross

Mr. Clarindo Rudolph

Ms Doodmattie Singh

Ms Norma Shirleen Thomas

Ms Joy Walton and

Ms Brenda Williams

12.

have been nominated in accordance with article 212Q(2)(a) of the Constitution to be appointed Members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 198 (M82 Govt76) published on 2005-06-22)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ivor Allen,
Mrs. Sheila Holder,
Mrs. Shirley Melville,
Mr. Basil Williams
and
Mr. James McAllister.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

The Minister of Health also spoke to the motion.

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

The motion which required the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the Elected Members of the Assembly for its adoption, was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Miss Allen
 Miss David
 Mr. Ally
 Mrs. Bancroft
 Mr. R. Khan
 Mr. Kadir
 Mr. McAllister
 Miss Adams
 Miss Ally
 Dr. Joseph
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Alexander
 Mr. Bernard
 Mrs. Backer
 Mr. Allen
 Mr. Carberry

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FOR

Mrs. Melville Mr. Neendkumar
 Mrs. Holder Mr. Mustapha
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Mr. Rajkumar
 Mr. Mohan
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Alli
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Mohamed
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Miss Rodrigues
 Mr. Xavier
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. Sawh
 Mr. Collymore
 Dr. Bisnauth
 Mr. Gajraj
 Mr. Baksh
 Dr. Jeffrey
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

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ITEM 5 - FIRST PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Deryck Bernard, on behalf of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the First Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 196 (M80 Govt74) published on 2005-06-20)

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal seconded the motion and spoke thereon.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second Readings

ITEM 6 - VALUATION FOR RATING PURPOSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 8/2005 published on 2005-06-13

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Valuation for Rating Purposes Act.

(Read a first time on 2005-06-23)

15.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Vincent Alexander

and

Mr. Basil Williams.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 11 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Valuation for Rating Purposes (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 8/2005, was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 7 - MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 9/2005 published on 2005-06-20

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act.

(Read a first time on 2005-06-23)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Vincent Alexander,

Mr. Basil Williams,

Mrs. Sheila Holder

and

Mrs. Shirley Melville.

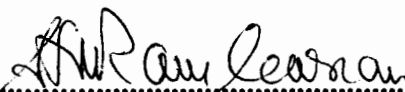
Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

At the request of the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 9/2005 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.52 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 14th July, 2005.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

7th July, 2005.