

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**  
**BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)**

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),  
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Hon. Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of the Public Service

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent)

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),  
Minister of Education (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),  
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini),  
Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

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3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/  
West Demerara)

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

\*\*Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

**Members of the Opposition (33)**

**(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)**

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

**\*\*Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

Ms Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkhan, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

5.

**(iii)Members of The Alliance For Change (7)**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, 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 3.38 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Securities Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

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(ii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana National Cooperative Bank Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(iii) The Audited Financial Statements of the National Communications Network Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(iv) The Audited Financial Statements of the National Communications Network Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Human Services and Social Security:

(i) The Adoption of Children Regulations 2012 – No. 3/2012.

(Circulated)

(ii) The Adoption of Children Rules 2012 – No. 1/2012.

(Circulated)

(iii) The Status of Children Regulations 2012 – No. 4/2012.

(Circulated)

(iv) The Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Regulations 2012 – No. 5/2012.

(Circulated)

7.

(3) By the Minister of Labour:

- (i) The Minimum Wages (Employees at Petrol Filling Stations) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 22 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Minimum Wages (Security Guards) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 23 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Minimum Rate of Wages) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 24 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (iv) The Minimum Wages (Mechanical Transport Employees) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 25 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (v) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 26 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (vi) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 27 of 2012.

(Circulated)

- (vii) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 28 of 2012.

(Circulated)

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8.

(viii) The Printing Trade Workers Wages Council Wages Regulations (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 29 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(ix) The Aerated Water Factories Wages Council Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 30 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(x) The Sawmill Workers Wages Council Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 31 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(xi) The Timber Grant Workers Wages Council Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 32 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(xii) The Minimum Wages (Cinema Employees) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 33 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(xiii) The Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 34 of 2012.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**Vessels M.V. Kanawan and Sabanto**

Mr. Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works the following question:

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9.

Could the Hon. Minister of Works state the date that the vessels M.V. Kanawan and Sabanto will be put into operation for the service of the general public along the Parika to Supenaam route, and the reason for the continued delay in doing so?

Thereafter the Minister of Public Works replied.

## **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **The Guyana National Protected Areas System**

The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment made a statement on the Guyana National Protected Areas System.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

### **Presentation and First Readings**

#### **1. MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 5/2012**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

#### **2. SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 6/2012**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 9/2011**

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:

Financial Paper No. 9/2011 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$79,619,478 – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

**(Notice Paper No. 54 (M24 Govt 9) published on 2012-05-11)**

**(Paper presented on 2012-05-10)**

Thereafter the motion was put and negated on the following division:

**AGAINST**

Mr. T. Williams  
Ms Marcello  
Dr. Ramayaa  
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe  
Mrs. Hughes  
Mr. Nagamootoo  
Mr. Ramjattan

**FOR**

Mr. Jafarally  
Mr. Damon  
Dr. Persaud  
Rev. Gilbert  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. Neendkumar

Ms Ferguson  
 Mr. Morian  
 Mr. Allen  
 Mr. Jones  
 Mr. Adams  
 Ms Baveghems  
 Mr. Sharma  
 Mr. Bulkan  
 Mr. Bond  
 Ms Kissoon  
 Mr. Trotman  
 Ms Selman  
 Mr. Allicock  
 Ms Wade  
 Mr. Felix  
 Ms Hastings  
 Mr. Scott  
 Mr. Harmon  
 Mr. Greenidge  
 Mrs. Backer  
 Dr. Norton  
 Mr. B. Williams  
 Ms Ally  
 Dr. Roopnarine  
 Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. Lumumba  
 Mr. Chand  
 Ms Shadick  
 Mrs. Chandarpal  
 Mr. Nadir  
 Ms Teixeira  
 Bishop Edghill  
 Mr. Whittaker  
 Mr. Baksh  
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai  
 Ms Webster  
 Mr. G. Persaud  
 Mr. Benn  
 Mr. Ali  
 Dr. Westford  
 Mr. R. Persaud  
 Dr. Singh  
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
 Mr. Nandlall  
 Dr. Ramsammy  
 Mr. Rohee  
 Mr. Hinds

**ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF DR. MOTI LALL**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Dr. Moti Lall on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 and pays tribute to his dedicated service as a Member of Parliament from 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1992 to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 and to the people of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

**(Notice Paper No. 56 (M26 Govt 11) published on 2012-05-30)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Africo Selman

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

The Minister of Agriculture

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal

Mr. Neendkumar

Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.41 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.03 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 3 - COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION ACT**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the extant Integrity Commission Act was passed in this House in 1997 and made into law on September 24, 1997 as the Integrity Commission Act 1997, Chapter 19:12, Act No. 20 of 1997;

AND WHEREAS the Commission and support staff were established shortly thereafter and all persons in public life listed in Schedule I being persons of high office are expected to be in compliance with this law;

AND WHEREAS Section 19 of the Act empowers the Commission and the President to publish the names of persons who are not in compliance with this Act in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper;

AND WHEREAS Section 22 addresses the offences and penalties for failure to comply which include fines and imprisonment;

14.

AND WHEREAS all elected officials, and more so, Members of Parliament in particular, identified in Schedule I, are expected to be standard bearers of ethics in public office and uphold the Code of Conduct outlined in the Act and in Schedule II,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House recognizes the lawful and legal obligation of Members of Parliament to submit annual declarations and call on all Members of this National Assembly to submit their declarations in accordance with the law;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:

That this House declares that failure or refusal of Members of Parliament to submit declarations is a violation of the law and a gross indictment of those Members of Parliament and vicariously on the integrity of Parliament;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this House conducts an annual voluntary monitoring exercise of compliance by Members of Parliament;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this House calls on the President to disclose to the Speaker annually the names of those Members of Parliament in default;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That persistent defaulters should be sanctioned by this House according to established norms of ethics and brought before the Committee of Privileges.

**(Notice Paper No. 55 (M25 Govt 10) published on 2012-05-30)**

15.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Deborah Backer

Dr. Vindhya Persaud

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Rev. Kwame Gilbert

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 8.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.56 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Ms Gail Teixeira

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to conclude its debate on the motion.

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

Mrs. Deborah Backer moved and Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan seconded the following amendments which were put and carried:

“Delete the first AND WHEREAS clause of the Motion and replace it with the following:

“AND WHEREAS The Integrity Commission has not been established on conformity with the requirements of section 3 of the Integrity Act 1997”

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16.

Insert as the new second AND WHEREAS clause:

“AND WHEREAS corruption has reached an alarming level in Guyana with little or no effort to stem the tide”

Delete the second AND WHEREAS clause of the Motion and replace it with the following as the new third AND WHEREAS clause:

“AND WHEREAS Section 19 of the Integrity Act empowers the Commission to publish the names of persons who are not in compliance with this Act in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper and the President to publish the names of members of the Commission who are not in compliance with this Act in the Gazette and a daily newspaper”

Make the 3<sup>rd</sup> AND WHEREAS clause of the Motion the new fourth AND WHEREAS clause.

Delete the fourth AND WHEREAS clause of the motion and replace it with the following as the new fifth AND WHEREAS clause:

“AND WHEREAS all persons occupying offices specified in Schedule I including Ministers of the Government and Members of Parliament are expected to uphold the Code of Conduct outlined in the Act and in Schedule II”

Insert as the first Resolve Clause:

“BE IT RESOLVED that this National Assembly calls on the President to establish the Integrity Commission as provided for in Section 3 of the Integrity Commission Act 1997”

Amend the first BE IT RESOLVED clause of the motion (which will become the second Resolved Clause) by inserting the words “to a duly constituted Integrity Commission” immediately after the word declaration where it first appears.



17.

Amend the second BE IT RESOLVED clause of the motion (which will become the third Resolve clause) by inserting the words “to a duly constituted Integrity Commission” immediately after the word “declaration” and delete the word “vicariously” and replace it with the words “by extension”

Delete the Third, Fourth and Fifth Resolve Clauses of the motion.”

Thereafter the motion as amended was put and carried.

**Father’s Day Greetings**

The Speaker wished all Members a Happy Father’s Day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.28 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

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**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.**

