

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 27<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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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 – on leave)

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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) (Absent)

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)

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 2.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**Potentially delicate period of National Security**

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following question:

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6.

“According to the edition of Demerara Waves dated Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2012, the Hon. Minister is on record as saying, “the need to have Senior Officers on the job during this potentially delicate period of National Security.”

Could the Honourable Minister please explain to this House what he meant when he uttered the words, “during this potentially delicate period of National Security?”

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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

### **Increase in Electricity Tariff in Linden from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement on the increase in Electricity Tariff in Linden from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

### **Presentation and First Readings**

#### **1. OFFICIAL GAZETTE BILL 2012 – Bill No. 9/2012**

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 provide for the publication of the Official Gazette in printed and electronic form and for connected purposes.

7.

2. **CIVIL LAW (RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN COMMON LAW UNION) BILL 2012**  
**– Bill No. 10/2012**

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 provide for the rights of persons in a common law union in intestate succession.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 –**  
**Bill No. 5/2012 published on 2012-06-08**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

**(Read a first time on 2012-06-14)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Winston Felix

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

8.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 and 2** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 2 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 –  
Bill No. 6/2012 published on 2012-06-08**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

**(Read a first time on 2012-06-14)**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan spoke to the motion.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

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

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.13 p.m., the sitting was resumed.



9.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Bibi Shadick

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

### **In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 3** were passed as printed.

### **Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

### **National Grade Six Assessment Results**

At 6.52 p.m., the Minister of Education made a statement on the National Grade Six Assessment (Common Entrance examination) results.

## **(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

### **MOTIONS**

#### **ITEM 3 - NATIONAL ASSETS**

The Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS in their recent reports on transparency and corruption the international community, including the World Economic Forum, Transparency International and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) have rated Guyana poorly;

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AND WHEREAS Guyanese are concerned about the widely reported acts of lawlessness in the guardianship of our national resources and assets as well as the lack of transparency and accountability associated with the disposal of those assets,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly requests the responsible Ministers of Government to:

- (a) Provide the National Assembly with a report in keeping with the law, on the disposal by sale or otherwise of all state lands, including the terms on which they were disposed of and the criteria used, which took place: Further between the date of announcement (Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2011) of the National and Regional Elections and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 and between 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2000 and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2011;
- (b) Make financial provision for the urgent commissioning of an independent financial audit of the operations of the National Industrial Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) and the Privatisation Unit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the relevant Ministers of Government provide the National Assembly as early as possible with:

- (a) A detailed report on the disposal by sale or otherwise of all state assets entrusted to NICIL and the Privatisation Unit, the terms on which they were disposed of and the criteria used;

11.

- (b) The outstanding bi-annual reports and annual audited accounts required of NICIL and the Privatisation Unit under the relevant legislation;
- (c) The handing over report from the former Executive Director of NICIL (and Head of the Privatisation Unit and), Winston Brassington, if applicable at this time;
- (d) A report on the disposal by sale or otherwise of all other state assets, including the terms on which they were disposed of and the criteria used;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a report on all the fiscal concessions, including duty free concessions, granted in response to specific requests or as part of contracts awarded by the Tender Board and the criteria on which these awards were based be placed before the National Assembly for review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the relevant Minister shall lay in the National Assembly for review and where applicable, for ratification, all international agreements, (including mining agreements involving the award of state lands and fiscal concessions), signed by the Government since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That all the aforesaid are done on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012.

**(Notice Paper No. 43 (M15 Opp 9) published on 2012-04-05)**

The Minister of Finance continued and concluded his speech.

While Mr. Carl Greenidge was replying to the motion, the Speaker suspended the sitting.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.40 p.m., the Speaker suspended the sitting due the unruly behaviour of Members.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Carl Greenidge continued and concluded his speech.

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

**FOR**

Mr. T. Williams  
Ms Marcello  
Dr. Ramayya  
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe  
Mrs. Hughes  
Mr. Nagamootoo  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Ms Ferguson  
Mr. Morian  
Mr. Allen  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Adams  
Ms Baveghems  
Mr. Sharma

**AGAINST**

Mr. Jafarally  
Mr. Damon  
Dr. Persaud  
Rev. Gilbert  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. Lumumba  
Mr. Chand  
Ms Shadick  
Mrs. Chandarpal  
Mr. Nadir  
Ms Teixeira  
Bishop Edghill  
Mr. Whittaker

13.

Mr. Bulkan  
Mr. Bond  
Ms Kissoon  
Mr. Trotman  
Ms Selman  
Mr. Allicock  
Ms Wade  
Mr. Felix  
Ms Hastings  
Mr. Scott  
Lt. Col.(Ret'd) Harmon  
Mr. Greenidge  
Mrs. Backer  
Dr. Norton  
Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. B. Williams  
Ms Ally  
Dr. Roopnarine  
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

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Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai  
Mr. G. Persaud  
Ms Manickchand  
Mr. Benn  
Mr. Ali  
Dr. Ramsarran  
Dr. Westford  
Mr. R. Persaud  
Dr. Singh  
Mr. Nandlall  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

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**ITEM 4 - AGENCIES CHARGED WITH EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS**

Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P. moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Financial Management and Accountability Act 2003 requires all revenues accruing to the State to be deposited in the Consolidated Fund;

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AND WHEREAS Section 39(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 2003 permits the establishment of Extra-Budgetary Funds by legislation;

AND WHEREAS some entities authorised to establish such Funds have failed to meet their obligations under Section 39 of the Act, namely to:

- (a) To separately account for the funds apart from any other resources; in accordance with Section 39(4);
- (b) To submit to the Minister and publish for general information quarterly reports on the financial operations of the Fund, Section 39(5)(b);
- (c) Make the accounts and records of the Fund available for independent audit by the Auditor General and prepare an annual report of the Auditor General thereon, to the National Assembly and publication of such reports for general information in keeping with Section 39(5)(c) and (d);

AND NOTWITHSTANDING:

The regular reports by the Auditor General and the Audit Office of the failure of many such entities to meet their legal obligations the Minister of Finance has routinely failed to enforce the law in these cases and has also failed to have explicitly reflected in the relevant investment plan and programmes of expenditure contained in the annual budget and to process the resources allocated from all Extra-Budgetary Funds for the purpose of financing Government social or economic development projects through the Consolidated Fund; (Section40)

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House requires the Minister of Finance to lay before it a report on all the extra-budgetary agencies, including the Lotto Funds and GGMC, all the outstanding reports and quarterly audited accounts as required by the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the relevant Minister/s ensure that all agencies authorized to have Extra-Budgetary Funds under the Act and with outstanding reports as at 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, be immediately required to pay into the Consolidated Fund all balances held in their accounts and a Statement of such payments be submitted to the National Assembly on or before 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

**(Notice Paper No. 44 (M16 Opp 10) published on 2012-04-05)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

**Presiding by Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.**

At 8.58 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. Basil Williams took the Chair.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 9.07 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The following Members also spoke the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 11**

At 9.55p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 11 was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with the debate on the motion.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter Mr. Carl Greenidge replied.

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

**FOR**

Mr. T. Williams  
Ms Marcello  
Dr. Ramayya  
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe  
Mrs. Hughes  
Mr. Nagamootoo  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Ms Ferguson  
Mr. Morian  
Mr. Allen  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Adams  
Ms Baveghems  
Mr. Sharma  
Mr. Bulkan

**AGAINST**

Mr. Jafarally  
Mr. Damon  
Dr. Persaud  
Rev. Gilbert  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. Lumumba  
Mr. Chand  
Ms Shadick  
Mrs. Chandarpal  
Mr. Nadir  
Ms Teixeira  
Bishop Edghill  
Mr. Whittaker  
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai



Mr. Bond  
Ms Kissoon  
Mr. Trotman  
Ms Selman  
Mr. Allicock  
Ms Wade  
Mr. Felix  
Ms Hastings  
Mr. Scott  
Lt. Col.(Ret'd) Harmon  
Mr. Greenidge  
Mrs. Backer  
Dr. Norton  
Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. B. Williams  
Ms Ally  
Dr. Roopnarine  
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. G. Persaud  
Ms Manickchand  
Mr. Benn  
Mr. Ali  
Dr. Ramsarran  
Dr. Westford  
Mr. R. Persaud  
Dr. Singh  
Mr. Nandlall  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Hinds

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.15 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

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

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

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