

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 24TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 12TH JULY, 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 (Absent)

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

*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. (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent)

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent)

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 2.13 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Housing and Water:

Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

6.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee):

Report of the Standing Orders Committee.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. Extension for Kwebana Reservation

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., asked the Minister of Amerindian Affairs the following questions:

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister state what is the arrangement in place for the grant of extension of lands in Amerindian Titled Lands in general, and with respect to Kwebana, in Region No. 1 in particular?
- (ii) Did the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs agree for a concession to be granted to a Chinese Company in Kwebana, Region No. 1?
- (iii) If so, does the Hon. Minister agree that this violates the “first come first serve” policy of the Ministry?

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs was absent at that sitting.

2. Rising River level of the Aruca River

Lt. Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Transport the following question:

7.

Whereas the residents and business persons of Kumaka, North West District, have suffered serious losses when the river level in the Aruca River rises and tops over the bank;

And whereas revetment works previously undertaken has failed to provide the residents and business persons with the protection necessary from the rising river level of the Aruca River.

Could the Hon. Minister say when the works currently being undertaken at the Kumaka Water Front will be completed and at what cost?

Thereafter the Minister of Transport replied.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 11 of 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 amend the Deeds Registry Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 1 - CIVIL LAW (RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN COMMON LAW UNION) BILL

2012 – Bill No. 10/2012 published on 2012-06-29

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the rights of persons in a common law union in intestate succession.

(Read a first time on 2012-06-27)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Education

Mr. James Bond

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Civil Law (Rights of Persons in Common Law Union) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 10 of 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.10 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3.18 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

MOTION

**ITEM 2 - MOTION TO HONOUR THE LONG AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF
FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTER, MR. REEPU
DAMAN PERSAUD, O.R., TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS this National Assembly acknowledges that the Parliament has been served with honour and distinction by outstanding leaders and Members of Parliament over the many decades;

AND WHEREAS on this day, the National Assembly duly honours two long serving Members of Parliament, Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., and Mr. Robert Corbin;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., served as a Member of Parliament for the Peoples' Progressive Party from May 18, 1965 to May 2, 2006;

AND WHEREAS during this period, Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., served, inter alia, as Chief Whip, Deputy Speaker, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Chairman of the Constitution Reform Select Committee and Leader of the House;

AND WHEREAS over a 14 year period he unstintingly served in high public office in government as Vice President, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., was and is recognized for his unparalleled knowledge and skills on the conduct of parliament, parliamentary rules and procedures, norms and conventions which were most particularly needed when he guided this National Assembly with a steady and fair hand in periods which are now considered critical and historic with regard to the evolution of our country's present day constitutional and parliamentary architecture;

10.

AND WHEREAS this House is of the unanimous opinion that such exemplary and dedicated public service to one's country must also be recognized by this National Assembly and in doing so call on present day Members of Parliament to emulate such selfless dedication and commitment,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly pauses in its deliberations to pay homage and to honour this long serving Member of Parliament, Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., who has by example created an unchallenged legacy of leadership and integrity in public office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly recognizes and congratulates Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., for his sacrifice and service to Guyana and its people for decades and further recognizes that he continues to do so beyond the walls of these Chambers as a politician, a religious and cultural leader.

(Notice Paper No. 80 (M31 Govt 12) published on 2012-07-05)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine

Mrs. Valarie Garrido-Lowe

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

In Accordance with Standing Order No. 28(3), Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., with the leave of the Speaker, moved the following motion:

ITEM 3 - RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENT AND GUYANA BY FORMER LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. ROBERT H.O. CORBIN

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. moved the following motion:

WHEREAS former Member of Parliament, Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, who demitted office as Leader of the Opposition on January 15, 2012 after the just concluded General and Regional Elections, has formerly announced his retirement from National Electoral politics;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, served continuously as a member of this National Assembly from August 2, 1973 to October 28, 1997 and from April 1, 2001 to January 15, 2012, totalling a period of 35 years 9 months and 26 days;

AND WHEREAS during the above mentioned period, Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, served Guyana as Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of State, Senior Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and on one occasion was sworn in and acting as President of the Co-operative of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, also served during the above period as an Opposition Member of Parliament holding several shadow portfolios and retired as Leader of the Opposition;

12.

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, made sterling and exemplary contributions to the debates, policy decisions and other activities of the Parliament of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, from his youth, also engaged in active politics in Guyana for most of his life, holding various offices in his Party, the Peoples National Congress Reform, including the Office of Leader of that Party;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, served Guyana in several other capacities before, during and after he was a member of this National Assembly such as Teacher, Public Officer, member of the Guyana Elections Commission, and Member of the International Board of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank and IMF;

AND WHEREAS the members of this National Assembly have agreed that this body should recognise former Members, who made sterling contributions to the work of this National Assembly and Guyana, not only after their death but during their lifetime,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly places on record its due recognition of the contributions and appreciation for the services rendered by Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin to the National Assembly, the Government and the people of Guyana for in excess of 35 years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly conveys to Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin its appreciation for the services he rendered to the people of Guyana both in and out of the National Assembly over the last thirty five years.

(Notice Paper No. 81 (M32 Opp20) published on 2012-07-05)

13.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Catherine Hughes

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Thereafter, Mrs. Volda Lawrence replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Speaker of the National Assembly made remarks re: Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R. and Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.25 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, 25th July, 2012.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

12th July, 2012.

