

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 66TH 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, 14TH 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

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

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 (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

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

* 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)

** 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 - on leave)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/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

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/Supenaam) (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Anna 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 - on leave)

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)

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 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leadership as a Vital Tool against HIV/AIDS**

Guyanese Parliamentarians Fighting HIV/AIDS

The Speaker made the following announcement:

“You have no doubt received by now an invitation from the Sectoral Committee on Social Services and the United Nations Population Fund for a two-day workshop of Guyanese Parliamentarians entitled: “Leadership as a Vital Tool Against HIV/AIDS” from July 19 - 20 at the Embasea Courtyard Conference Room, in Georgetown, Guyana.

The workshop is sponsored by the Social Services Committee of the National Assembly.

The purpose of the workshop is to encourage our commitment as parliamentarians in the fight against the HIV/AIDS in this country.

It is envisaged that this meeting will serve as an impetus to continue dialogue and raise greater awareness of the subject among Parliamentarians so that we are further enabled to mobilize the political will necessary to give top priority to advocating, proposing and reforming legislation to address the HIV/AIDS within our country.”

(ii) **Discontinuation of Announcement of Leave to Members**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, that was the last time he was announcing leave for Members. He stated that it was a long standing practice that it was wholly unnecessary for him to do so and that there was no rule which required the announcement.

The Speaker further stated, that with effect from the next sitting, the Clerk of the National Assembly would give the two Chief Whips lists of the names of Members who would be absent from sittings of the National Assembly.

(iii) **The Beslan Appeal**

The Speaker reminded Members that he had circulated the Beslan Appeal opposing Violence to Children. He stated that the Appeal was worthy of support by Parliamentarians and that while they were not obliged to support the Appeal he was asking them to do so.

(iv) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar for that day's sitting,

Mr. Bernard De Santos, up to 28th July, 2005

Mr. Ivor Allen for that day's sitting,

Mr. Stanley Ming, up to 12th August, 2005,
Mr. Jerome Khan,
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman,
Miss Lurlene Nestor
and
Miss Shirley Melville for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Annual Report of the Ethnic Relations Commission for the year 2004.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Education:

The National Schools (Board of Governors) Order 23 of 2005.

(Circulated)

(3) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following Reports:

(i) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Value-Added Tax Bill 2005 -
Bill No. 3/2005.

(Circulated)

(ii) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Excise Tax Bill 2005 -
Bill No. 4/2005.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-**For Oral Reply****ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., asked the question.

In the absence of the Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs requested that the oral answer to the following question be deferred:

*Will the Minister say what is the status with respect to negotiations between the European Union and the Guyana government on an Economic Partnership Agreement?

(Notice Paper No. 192 (Q111 Opp106) published on 2005-05-27)

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTION****ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR 1999**

Mr. Winston Murray (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee), moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

This National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1999 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 94 (M36 Govt34) published on 2004-02-12)

Mr. Donald Ramotar spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Winston Murray replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second Readings

ITEM 2 - NATIONAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 11/2005
published on 2005-07-06

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

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

(Read a first time on 2005-07-07)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Vincent Alexander

and

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ravindra Dev,

Mr. Basil Williams,

Mrs. Sheila Holder,

The Minister of Health,

Mr. Robert Corbin
and
Mr. Donald Ramotar.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 5 were **passed as printed.**

Clause 6

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, moved the following amendment:

The amendment to section 6, paragraph (g) the inserted subsection (6A):

“For the full stop at the end substitute a colon and insert the following proviso:
“provided that at any stage the Commission may undertake such verification as
necessary by a means to be determined by the Commission.”

The amendment was **put** and **carried.**

Clause 6 was **passed** as **amended.**

Clause 7

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, moved the following amendment:

The amendment to section 9, paragraph (b):

“For the words “processing of electronic data” substitute the words “electronic
processing of data.”

10.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 7 was passed as amended.

Clauses 8 to 11 were passed as printed.

Clause 12

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, moved the following amendment:

The inserted section 28 in the opening part:

(a) "For the words "as may be necessary" substitute the words "as the Commission may deem necessary."

(b) "For the colon substitute a full stop."

the proviso (c) "Delete".

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 12 was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the National Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 11/2005 was read a third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.30 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

11.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 3 - GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005 - Bill No. 6/2005
published on 2005-06-07

The Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997 to further support the institution and success of prosecutions under the Act and regulations made thereunder.

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. James McAllister

and

Mr. Lance Carberry.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister 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 4 were passed as printed.

Part 5 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Guyana Energy Agency (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 6/2005 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 4 - CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY
BILL 2005 - Bill No. 7/2005 published on 2005-06-13

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the Agreement
establishing the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards
and Quality and for matters connected therewith.

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. James McAllister

and

Mrs. Sheila Holder.

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce 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 5 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, the Caricom Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality Bill 2005 - Bill No. 7/2005 was read a third time and passed as printed.

Due to a lack of the required notice in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 55(1) and 76(5), consideration of the following Motions were deferred:

BILLS - Report from Select Committee and Third Readings

ITEM 5 - VALUE-ADDED TAX BILL 2005 - Bill No. 3/2005 published on 2005-03-12

The Minister of Finance to move:

- (i) That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Value-Added Tax Bill 2005, be adopted, and
- (ii) That the Value-Added Tax Bill 2005 be read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 6 - EXCISE TAX BILL 2005 - Bill No. 4/2005 published on 2005-04-11

The Minister of Finance to move:

- (i) That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Excise Tax Bill 2005, be adopted, and
- (ii) That the Excise Tax Bill 2005 be read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Monday, 18th July, 2005.



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

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

14th July, 2005.