

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 29TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 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

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

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**

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. Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

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) (Absent)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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 2.15 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- (i) Report of the Auditor General to the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

/...6

6.

- (ii) Second Annual Report of the Women and Gender Equality Commission for the period June, 2011 to May, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Report of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the period ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Minutes of Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Friday, 24th February, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (v) Minutes of Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Wednesday, 7th March, 2012.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:

Audited Financial Statements of the Public Utilities Commission for the years ended 31st December, 2000 – 2010.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Mid-Year Report 2012.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Value-Added Tax (Amendment of Schedule I) Order 2012 – No. 178 of 2012.

(Circulated)

7.

(iii) The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 2012 – No. 179 of 2012.

(Circulated)

(iv) Loan Contract **No. 2567/BL-GY** dated September 23, 2011 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$5,000,000 for the Sustainable Operation of the Electricity Sector and Improved Quality of Service.

(Circulated)

(v) Government Concessional Loan Agreement signed on November 4, 2011 between the Government of the Republic of Guyana and the Export-Import Bank of China **GCL No. (2011) 35 Total No. (385) No. 1420203052011111336** for Renminbi Yuan ¥215,000,000 for the E-Government Project.

(Circulated)

(vi) Sales Contract **No. SA 142251 (PETROCARIBE)** dated January 1, 2012 between PDVSA Petróleo, S.A. and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) to supply the Government of Guyana with crude oil, refined oil products and LPG of up to 5,200 barrels per day on an annual basis.

(Circulated)

(vii) Audited Financial Statements of the Integrity Commission for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(viii) The Guyana Oil Company Limited Annual Report for the year 2011.

(Circulated)

8.

(ix) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the period 9th December, 2004 to 31st December, 2004.

(Circulated)

(x) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2005.

(Circulated)

(xi) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2006.

(Circulated)

(xii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(xiii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(xiv) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(xv) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

9.

(xvi) The Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(xvii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Atlantic Hotel Inc. for the period 10th September, 2009 to 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(xviii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Atlantic Hotel Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(xix) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Electricity Corporation Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(xx) The Annual Report of the Linden Electricity Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(xxi) The Annual Report of the Linden Electricity Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(xxii) Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2006.

(Circulated)

10.

(xxiii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2007.

(Circulated)

(xxiv) The Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

(xxv) The Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(xxvi) The Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(xxvii) The Annual Report of the Guyana National Printers Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Agriculture:

Guyana Rice Development Board Annual Report for the year 2011.

(Circulated)

(5) The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs, presented the Immigration (Amendment) Regulations 2012 – No. 9 of 2012.

(Circulated)

/...11

11.

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. 2012 Budget Cuts

Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

Would the Minister of Finance be good enough to verify the statements made by Dr. Roger Luncheon, M.D., and, if true, indicate what categories of sums have been paid concerning moneys that were not approved by this House in the 2012 Budget?

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

2. Money to fund Concert

Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., asked the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (a.g.) the following question:

Would the Minister provide this House with a report specifically on the extent of the financial, as well as other involvement, that the Government is to have in bringing Chris Brown to Guyana for a concert to be held in December?

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (a.g.) replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. EXCAVATOR (HYMAC) ON THE WANINA ROAD, NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Member Asking: Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Is the Hon. Minister aware that an Excavator (Hymac) has been lying on the Wanina Road, North West District, for over one (1) year to be repaired?

12.

If so, could the Hon. Minister say who is responsible for this expensive piece of equipment being there for such a long time?

(Notice Paper No. 85 (Q 50 Opp 50) published on 2012-07-27)

Answers:

Yes, I was made aware after my outreach to Mabaruma Sub-District earlier this year.

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs acquired the excavator through funding from the Government of Guyana for the National Secure Livelihood Programme (NSLP). However, the Regional Democratic Council, Region No. 1, was granted authorization for utilization of the machinery in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding.

The excavator was in use completing the excavation of fish ponds at Tobago Hill when it slid off the matting and sank into the pond/swamp.

Attempts were made by the Regional Administration #1, utilising a private backhoe in an effort to salvage the machine which was under water but this failed. The Region Administration then sought the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs assistance for external help which in turn approached the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA).

NDIA was able to have the Excavator lifted and removed whereby a temporary engine was utilized.

A tripartite arrangement is in place between Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Regional Administration, Region No. 1 and National Drainage and Irrigation Authority to make the machinery operational once again.

2. **FULL-TIME TUTORS FOR THE GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

Given the fact that there is a shortage of tutors at the Georgetown School of Nursing and that there are over 500 students presently attending the Institution with at least 300 attending on a daily basis and there are only 7 full- time tutors at the said Institution, would the Hon. Minister agree that in order to facilitate maximum learning, one (1) tutor is required to tutor 25 students?

Can the Hon. Minister say when the Ministry of Health will be providing the Georgetown School of Nursing with the required amount of tutors that are urgently needed to tutor 300 students on a daily basis at the Institution?

(Notice Paper No. 86 (Q 51 Opp 51) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

There were 12 full-time tutors attached to the Georgetown School of Nursing at the beginning of 2012, however, four of them retired in the last five months and steps have been taken to have them replaced. Also, plans are on stream to incrementally increase the full time tutors by employing an additional 10 within the next six months. In addition, there are 14 part-time tutors complementing the full-time tutors. 16 Clinical Instructors are also being used to perform some of the duties of tutors. A more comprehensive response is given in the answer to the Question in Notice Paper No. 92.

3. **CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS AT THE GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

14.

Since the New Pilot Curriculum that the Georgetown School of Nursing is now using specifies that Clinical Instructors must be part of the programme, can the Hon. Minister say why there are no Clinical Instructors at the school?

Can the Hon. Minister also say why the Pilot Curriculum has not yet been evaluated since this is the third year since it has been implemented?

(Notice Paper No. 87 (Q 52 Opp 52) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

The Ministry, through the DHSE in 2011 developed a basic Clinical Instructors Training Programme for nurses and other health sciences educators. This initiative is expected to guarantee students assigned to the clinical areas will be mentored by designated trained staff in a safe environment as they link theory to practice. Additionally, the existing group of Clinic Instructors is already providing invaluable support in the classroom and is involved in didactic sessions and tutorial sessions.

A total of 29 Clinical Instructors received basic training and are providing clinical guidance and tutorial support.

In October, 2012, Clinical Instructor courses will be conducted at two of the government schools of nursing where currently such training is absent. A total of 30 Instructors will be trained. The target population will be nurses and other allied health professionals in all of the clinical settings that students are assigned to. In addition a special Clinical Instructor's course will be held for Public Health staff from Regions three and four. A total of 15 Health Centre team leaders will be trained to provide support to students on public health rotations at select Health Centers. Currently existing professional Health Center staff is used for this purpose with support provided from the Director (ag.).

4. **UP-TO-DATE TEXT BOOKS FOR STUDENTS AT THE GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is a shortage of up-to-date text books at the Georgetown School of Nursing and, if so, will the Hon. Minister state when the Ministry of Health will be providing the school with the urgently needed text books, which include the following:-

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Fundamentals of Nursing
3. Medical Surgical Nursing
4. Emergency Nursing
5. Nutrition
6. Path physiology
7. Sociology for Nursing
8. Pharmacology for Nursing
9. Drug Guide for Nursing
10. Myles Midwifery Text Book
11. Maye's Midwifery Text Book
12. Anatomy and Physiology for Midwives?

(Notice Paper No. 88 (Q 53 Opp 53) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

The Ministry is constantly expanding its stock of textbooks in all three of the schools of nursing. Older versions are currently being replaced incrementally based on available resources. Additional volumes of the required texts will be bought during the remainder of this financial year and next year. This will increase the numbers and variety available in all of the libraries of

the three schools. Thirty five (35) essential texts will be purchased and this will account for approximately 300 current additional texts in the library. The Ministry of Health will continue to encourage the nursing students to make use of other Medical Libraries such as the GPHC Medical Sciences Library conveniently located in the compound of the Hospital. The Ministry secured several years ago with the assistance of PAHO access to Virtual Libraries. These are accessible from the computers housed at the Medical Sciences Library (GPHC) and the Libraries of the Nursing Schools. The Ministry is aware that a significant number of its nursing students possess personal computers and laptops. The students will be encouraged to use these in a prescribed manner in the Schools and for home self-study. With the introduction of the second shift of classes School Libraries are accessible late into the night allowing more students desirable of using this resource on a rotation basis. The Ministry is currently up grading its capacity to allow simultaneous access to more and more students.

A perusal of recent editions of the standard texts used at the Schools will show that there has been little or no changes to content in recent years. It is the approach to teaching content that has seen continuous change.

The Ministry is positioning itself to shift more and more to Virtual Libraries and will continue to encourage students in this direction.

5. EXPANSION OF LIBRARY AT THE GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

Can the Hon. Minister say whether his Ministry has plans to provide a larger library at the Georgetown School of Nursing to facilitate approximately 500 students that are presently attending the Institution?

(Notice Paper No. 89 (Q 54 Opp 54) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

Expansion work was carried out on all three of the Schools of Nursing to accommodate the increase in the student population. Special emphasis was directed at expanding classroom space and sanitary facilities. This has been particularly so at the Georgetown School of Nursing. Particular care was taken to provide adequate sanitary facilities during the upgrade completed last year. However, the Ministry has observed that there are challenges in managing the environment and cleanliness of the School generally and the sanitary facilities in particular. Maintenance of the facilities appears to present a challenge to the management structures as presently constituted.

The Georgetown School will shortly be expanded further to accommodate an additional classroom, a sanitary block and a recreational area for students. Special care will be taken to ensure that additional sanitary services peculiar to the needs of the female student population at the school.

The Ministry has noted the unsightly solid waste collection/holding site at the very front of the GSN compound. This will be addressed with immediate effect. The GPHC will now collect the garbage at regular intervals and merge it with its own for final disposal.

Rehabilitation of the Kingston Annex will provide additional classroom, library, and other facilities to improve the learning environment. Significant work has been done there and additional works are scheduled. This added capacity will allow for further relief at the GSN.

6. ADDITIONAL COMPUTERS FOR GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

18.

Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are only 5 computers at the Georgetown School of Nursing? If so, can the Hon. Minister say when the Ministry of Health will provide the Georgetown School of Nursing with at least 20 more computers to facilitate the research work of the students?

(Notice Paper No. 90 (Q 55 Opp 55) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

Thirteen (13) computers are currently in placed at the Georgetown School of Nursing to be used by students and staff. In addition, the Ministry will be soon installing an additional eight (8) computers which will be networked using a server. A Wireless Router will also be installed to provide internet service and access the virtual library through the server.

The 2012/2013 budget estimates proposes increase in the number of computers at all of the schools of nursing.

7. GUYANA'S FOREIGN MISSIONS

Member Asking: **Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the following:-

(a) A list of the Heads of each of Guyana's Foreign Missions?

(b) The period that each head of Mission has served at his/her current posting?

(Notice Paper No. 93 (Q 58 Opp 58) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

No.	Country/Mission	Name	Position	Period at Post
1	Barbados-Consulate General	Mr. Michael Brotherson	Consul General	3 months
2	Belgium	His Excellency Patrick Gomes	Ambassador	7 years 5 months
	Brazil			
3	Brasilia	His Excellency Kellawan lall	Ambassador	1 year
4	Boa Vista Consulate General	Mrs. Leila King	Consul General	2 years 5 months
5	Ottawa	His Excellency Harrinarine Nawbatt	High Commissioner	1 year 5 months
6	Toronto Consulate General	Mrs. Sattie Sawh	Honorary Consul General	7 months
7	China	His Excellency David Dabydeen	Ambassador	2 years
8	Cuba	Her Excellency Mitra Devi Ali	Ambassador	3 years 3 months
9	India	His Excellency Ronald Gajraj	High Commissioner	6 years 10 months
10	Kuwait	His Excellency Odeen Ishmael	Ambassador	1 year 3 months
	Suriname			
11	Paramaribo	His Excellency Keith George	Ambassador	6 months
12	Nickerie-Consulate General	Mr. Arlington Bancroft	Consul General	8 years 8 months
13	United Kingdom	His Excellency Laleshwar Singh	High Commissioner	19 years
	United States of America			
14	Washington	His Excellency Bayney Karran	Ambassador	8 years 6 months
15	New York	His Excellency George Talbot	Permanent Representative to the United Nations	10 years (7 months in substantive position)
16	New York – Consulate General	Mr. Brentnold Evans	Consul General	19 years
17	Venezuela	His Excellency Geoffrey Da Silva	Ambassador	1 year 4 months

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

Course of Events which occurred during the Parliamentary Recess

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement on course of events which occurred during the Parliamentary Recess.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

1. **Incident occurred in Agricola**

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P., made a personal explanation re: the Prime Minister's statement.

2. **Incident occurred in Agricola**

Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, made a personal explanation re: protest at Agricola.

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

Incidents occurred at Agricola

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Government Chief Whip, requested leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly on definite matters of urgent public importance on the incidents occurred at Agricola.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.25 p.m. the sitting was suspended to enable the Speaker of the National Assembly to consult with the Clerk of the National Assembly on the adjournment motion.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3.59 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

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

Thereafter the Speaker of the National Assembly, after permitting a brief explanatory statement by Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Government Chief Whip, disallowed her request to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.09 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. **FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 21/2012**

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 Firearms Act.

2. **MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 23/2012**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Music and Dancing Licences Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

Bills – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 18/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

ITEM 2 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 17/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

MOTION

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012 – No. 179 of 2012

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 2012 (No. 179 of 2012), which was made on 27th August, 2012, under Section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 and published in the Official Gazette dated 8th September, 2012.

(Notice Paper No. 98 (M40 Govt 16) published on 2012-09-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Mr. Carl Greenidge

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 4 -STEPS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ESTABLISH THE INDEPENDENCE

AND AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly as contained in the Report of the Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor (Sir Michael Davies Report) to the Guyana National Assembly, February, 2005, recommended, *inter alia*, that

24.

“The National Assembly should be given much greater independence in respect of its own budget. Systems should be established within the Parliament Office to undertake the estimating, monitoring, controlling and accounting for the Assembly’s expenditure; and

The Clerk of the National Assembly should become the employer of all staff of the Parliament Office. A larger Personnel Office should be established to carry out these additional responsibilities.”

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Final Framework and Guidelines Report, Volume 2, has recommended at component 6 of its recommendation that, ‘Parliament should employ its own staff, and the Speaker should appoint the Clerk of the House after consultation with all parties’;

AND WHEREAS the Government signaled its acceptance of these recommendations in the 2005 Draft Poverty Reduction Report released on the 21st June, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the basis of these recommendations is the need for Parliament to be fully independent of the Executive,

BE IT RESOLVED:

- (1) That a Special Select Committee be appointed to examine these recommendations with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken to establish the independence and authority of the National Assembly in respect of its own budget; and

25.

(2) That this Special Select Committee examines these recommendations with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken to enable the Clerk to become the employing authority of the staff of the Parliament Office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee submit its final report one month after its appointment.

(Notice Paper No. 50 (M20 Opp 12) published on 2012-04-19)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Africo Selman

The Minister of Agriculture

Ms Gail Teixeira

Thereafter Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan replied.

The Minister of Agriculture moved the following amendments which were put and negatived on the following division:

“Delete the second ‘AND WHEREAS’ clause

Add a new second and new third, fourth, five, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, ‘AND WHEREAS’ clauses

That read as follows after the words “AND WHEREAS “Improving Political Governance”, pages 80-81, stated, that “The government, in consultation with the

/...26

Parliament and the major political parties will carry out comprehensive reforms...these reforms will involve the Parliament, the Parliamentary Committees and the Executive Branch...and in particular the National Assembly. The comprehensive study undertaken in the Fiduciary Oversight and the Davies Report will form the basis of this;”

AND WHEREAS the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly of Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Advisor and the Addendum of the Needs Assessment dated February 18 and May 18, 2005 were tabled in the National Assembly and sent to a Parliamentary Special Select Committee on October 27, 2005 by way of Resolution No. 80 of 2005;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Report (the Bradford Report) and the Advisory Papers of Mr. Pinder were also tabled in the National Assembly on December 15, 2005 and sent to the same Parliamentary Special Select Committee by way of Resolution No. 85 of 2005;

AND WHEREAS this Committee met and presented interim reports and then its Final Report on April 10, 2006 with 79 recommendations which were adopted;

AND WHEREAS the majority of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee’s recommendations were reflected in the revised 2006 Standing Orders.

AND WHEREAS Davies Recommendation # 18 (page 6) in the Committee’s Final Report with regard to “Parliament managing its own budget” and Bradford recommendation #1 (page 8) stated therein referred this to the Parliamentary Management Committee and the Speaker and the Clerk for implementation;

AND WHEREAS Davies Recommendation # 19 (page 7) with regard to the Clerk as the employer was also referred to the PMC, the Speaker and the Clerk for implementation;

AND WHEREAS Bradford's Recommendation #3 (6) (page 12) did not have the support of the Committee and it made no recommendation.”

Amend the original third now eleventh AND WHEREAS clause as follows:

Delete the words after the words “need for the” “Parliament to be fully independent of the executive”

And substitute the words “the Separation of powers between the Executive and the Legislative branches of government”

Amend the First BE IT RESOLVED clause

Delete original (1) and replace with new (1) as follows:

That the Parliamentary Management Committee review the Parliamentary Special Select Committee's Final Report with a view to assessing the status of the implementation of the agreed on recommendation with a view to following up on their implementation.

Delete original (2)

Amend the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

Delete the words “that the Special...appointment” and replace with words “that the Parliamentary Management Committee submit a report to the National Assembly””

DIVISION

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

FOR

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Ramayya	Dr. Persaud
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe	Rev. Gilbert
Mr. Nagamootoo	Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Seeraj
Ms Ferguson	Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Morian	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Allen	Mr. Chand
Mr. Jones	Ms Shadick
Mr. Adams	Mrs. Chandarpal
Ms Baveghems	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Sharma	Ms Teixeira
Mr. Bulkan	Bishop Edghill
Mr. Bond	Mr. Whittaker
Ms Kissoon	Mr. Baksh
Mr. Trotman	Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Selman	Ms Webster
Mr. Allicock	Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Wade	Ms Manickchand
Mr. Felix	Mr. Benn
Mr. Scott	Dr. Anthony
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon	Mr. Ali
Mr. Greenidge	Dr. Ramsarran
Mrs. Backer	Dr. Westford
Dr. Norton	Mr. R. Persaud
Mrs. Lawrence	Dr. Singh
Mr. B. Williams	Mr. Nandlall
Ms Ally	Dr. Ramsammy

Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

31

Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

31

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. moved the following amendment which was put and negatived on the following division:

“Amend Resolved Clause 2 (para. 1) which reads:

BE IT RESOVLED:

(2) That this Special Select Committee examines these recommendations with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken to enable the Clerk to become the employing authority of the staff of the Parliament Office;

AMENDED TO READ

BE IT RESOVLED:

(2) That this Special Select Committee examines Bill entitled Clerk of the National Assembly Bill 2012 with a view to enable the Clerk to become the employing authority of the staff of the Parliament Office;

DIVISION

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson

AGAINST

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

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
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

31

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

31

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

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DIVISION**FOR**

Mr. T. Williams
 Ms Marcello
 Dr. Ramayya
 Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Ramjattan
 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
 Mr. Scott
 Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
 Mr. Greenidge
 Mrs. Backer
 Dr. Norton
 Mrs. Lawrence

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
 Mr. Damon
 Dr. Persaud
 Rev. Gilbert
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Chand
 Ms Shadick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Biship Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. R. Persaud
 Dr. Singh

Mr. B. Williams

Ms Ally

Dr. Roopnarine

Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

31

Mr. Nandlall

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Hinds

31

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

BILL – Second Reading

ITEM 5 - OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL 2012 –

No. 8/2012 published on 2012-08-10

At the request of Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, on behalf of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., the second reading of the following Bill deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to set out the responsibilities and authority of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Guyana and to provide for the establishment and administration of an independent Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

MOTIONS

ITEM 6 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – No. 15/2012

At the request of Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 15/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Notice Paper No. 96 (M38 Opp 22) published on 2012-08-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

ITEM 7 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 16/2012

At the request of Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Telecommunications Bill 2012 – Bill No. 16/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunication Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Notice Paper No. 97 (M39 Opp 23) published on 2012-08-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

ITEM 8 - FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

2012 – No. 24/2012

At the request of Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 24/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act 2003.

(Notice Paper No. 99 (M41 Opp 23) published on 2012-10-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

ITEM 9 - FORMER PRESIDENTS (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES)

(AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – No. 25/2012

At the request of Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Former Presidents (Benefits and Other Facilities) (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 25/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Former Presidents (Benefits and Other Facilities) Act 2009.

(Notice Paper No. 100 (M42 Opp 24) published on 2012-10-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

EID-UL-ADHA GREETINGS

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs extended Eid-Ul-Adha Greetings to all Guyanese, especially Muslim Community. Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.P., Leader of the Opposition also extended Eid-Ul-Adha Greetings. Mr. Moses Nagamootoo joined the Prime Minister and Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger in extended Eid-Ul-Adha greetings.

The Speaker extended birthday greetings to His Excellency the President Mr. Donald Ramotar and some Members of Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.05 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 8th November, 2012.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

22nd October, 2012.

