

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 30TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 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

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)

*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., Government 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. (Absent – on leave)

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 2.18 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

1. Sympathy on the Death of the Mother of Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

On behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker expressed sympathy to Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P., on the death of her mother.

6.

2. **Visit to the House of Commons and the Parliament of Scotland**

The Speaker informed Members that a delegation comprising Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P., Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Mrs. Varerie Gariddo-Lowe, M.P. and himself, visited the House of Commons and the Parliament of Scotland from the 29th October, 2012 to 2nd November, 2012.

3. **Training Course in Legislative Drafting**

The Speaker stated that twenty-one Members of Parliament, eight Members of Staff and one Attorney-At-Law from the Attorney General's Chamber completed a three-day training course in the drafting of legislation.

4. **Assessment of the Parliamentary Committees**

The Speaker informed Members that from the 9th November, 2012 to 16th November, 2012, there will be an assessment of the Parliamentary Committees of the National Assembly which will be conducted by Consultants provided by the U.K. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and UNDP.

A Report will be issued at the end of the assessment to guide the Assembly to improve the work of the Committees.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Audited Financial Statements of the Atlantic Hotel Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 2011.

(Circulated)

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7.

(ii) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (Company) for the year ended 31st December, 2002.

(Circulated)

(iii) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (Company) for the year ended 31st December, 2003.

(Circulated)

(iv) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (Company) for the year ended 31st December, 2004.

(Circulated)

(v) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (Company) for the year ended 31st December, 2005.

(Circulated)

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

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. INTERNET FACILITATES AT THE GEORGETOWN SCHOOL OF NURSING

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

8.

Would the Hon. Minister say if his Ministry has plans for providing Broad Band Internet Service or Wireless Internet Services to the Georgetown School of Nursing to assist the students with their research, since the Dial-Up System which is woefully out dated, has been out of service for a long time?

If his Ministry has plans to provide the Broad Band Internet Service, can the Hon. Minister say how soon this will be done?

(Notice Paper No. 91 (Q 56 Opp 56) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

“There is currently limited internet access at the Georgetown School of Nursing. The instruction to upscale the service was given towards the end of the last year to the IT Unit of the Ministry. The execution of this activity has been slothful. These services already exist at adequate levels at the New Amsterdam School of Nursing and the Charles Rosa school of Nursing, Linden. Renewed efforts are underway to ensure that the expanded service is finally installed at the Georgetown School of Nursing. The Ministry notes that a significant number of nursing students already own personal lap-top computers. They will be encouraged to use these in a prescribed manner in the hot spot created in the School. The Ministry is in possession of more computers and servers which will be installed when the minor civil works are complete.

Internet access is also available for students at the Georgetown Hospital Medical Sciences Library including access to the PAHO/WHO sponsored Virtual Libraries. Students will be encouraged to use their own computers to access the Virtual Libraries in a prescribed manner at the school or at home for self-study.”

2. GUYANA HEADING FOR A SERIOUS HEALTH CRISIS

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

9.

Would the Hon. Minister agree that the shortage of lecturers at the various levels of the nursing programme, the absence of clinical instructors, out-dated text books, lack of internet/research facilities, insanitary conditions, limited classroom space due to the high student population in Guyana is likely to produce nurses of very poor quality who are, and will be employed by both Public and Private Health Institutions, thus laying the foundation for a serious health crisis in Guyana in the near future?

(Notice Paper No. 92 (Q 57 Opp 57) published on 2012-07-27)

Answer:

“(a) Shortage of Tutors

The three (3) government schools of nursing presently have 24 full time tutors on staff. Based on the current student population an additional 21 tutors are required.

However, the full time tutorial staff is assisted by 52 part-time tutors who are nurses and other allied health professionals and possess similar competencies. The Ministry is implementing actions to ensure reducing reliance on part time tutors.

The Division of Health Sciences Education is currently focusing on expanding the tutorial staff by using some of the 29 recently trained Clinical Instructors to assist with conducting tutorial sessions to re-enforce content taught in the lectures. These possess many of the competencies of the tutors.

In keeping with its mandate to produce competent graduates capable of providing quality services to the people of Guyana the Division of Health Sciences Education (DHSE) in collaboration with ITECH developed a basic education course for Health Sciences Tutors. This effort also saw the incumbent Director (ag.) of the Division attending a short Curriculum Development course in Seattle. This was an activity to develop local capacity for the longer term needs of nursing education which will demand continuous review and re-crafting of curricula.

10.

Ten (10) tutors from the three government schools of nursing successfully completed the training course for Health Sciences Tutors and will graduate in October, 2012. This will significantly strengthen the core faculty group.

A second batch of nurses and Allied Health Professionals will commence training as Health Sciences Tutors in September, 2012.

The combined efforts are directed towards the increasing the quantum and quality of educators in nursing and other allied health disciplines. In the coming year their introduction will remove our need for part time tutors and the improvised use of Clinical Instructors to deliver tutorials. Their introduction will not bring an end to the training of this category of nurse educator. The Ministry will then be able to continue the training courses aimed at creating some level of redundancy.

(b) Clinical Instructors

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 Clinical 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 3 and 4. 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.)

(c) Outdated Textbooks

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 MOH 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 the School Libraries are accessible late into the night allowing

more students desirable of using this resource on a rotation basis. The Ministry is currently upgrading 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 have 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.

(d) Internet/Research Facilities

The Ministry of Health is committed to providing internet services in all of the schools of nursing. Currently New Amsterdam and Linden have adequate internet access. The Ministry is currently engaging GT&T to provide upgraded internet service for the Georgetown School of Nursing. Improvements in library services including access to internet facilities will enhance research capabilities of students and faculty members and reduce the reliance on traditional text books. This will allow the Ministry to move away from the “Library” to the “Resource Center” concept. The Ministry has introduced Computer Training into the Nursing Curriculum.

(e) Classroom spacing/insanitary conditions

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.

13.

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 the 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.

The Georgetown Nursing School has outgrown its existing Management Structure. The MOH has sought permission to expand the Management Team to include an Administrator and a Social Worker. This is aimed at removing some of the responsibilities from the remit of the Principal Tutor to allow that functionary to devote undivided attention to core academic issues and to achieve better division of functions resulting hopefully in higher efficiency.”

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 26/2012

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 Sexual Offences Act.

14.

2. **BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 27/2012**

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 Business Names (Registration) 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)

At 2.25p.m., the Speaker gave a ruling re: Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs addressing the Assembly in view of the motion of confidence passed against him.

ITEM 3 - FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 21/2012 published on 2012-09-04

While Minister of Home Affairs was speaking to the motion the sitting was suspended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 2.35 p.m., the Speaker suspended the sitting due to the grave disorderly conduct of Members of the Opposition.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.48 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 3 - FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 21/2012 published on 2012-09-04

When the Minister of Home Affairs rose to speak to the motion the Members of the Opposition created grave disorder in the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.52 p.m., in accordance with Standing Order No. 47(9), the Speaker adjourned the Assembly to 2.00p.m., on Thursday, 22nd November, 2012.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

8th November, 2012.