

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> 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. (Absent)

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)

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 2.07 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement on his Ruling on the right of the Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P. to participate in the proceedings of the House as Minister of Home Affairs.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Audited Financial Statements of the National Communications Network Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Audited Financial Statements of the Aroaima Mining Company Inc. for the period January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011.

(Circulated)

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**Re: Cease Fire by the Government of Israel into the State of Palestine**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs made a statement re: cease fire by the Government of Israel into the State of Palestine.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRIES AUTHORITY BILL 2012 – Bill No. 28/2012**

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 establish the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority as a corporate body, to establish and promote the efficient and orderly operation of the Deeds Registry and the Commercial Registry, to establish the conditions governing the employment of officers and employees of the Authority, to provide for funding of the operations of the Authority, and for connected matters.

7.

**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)**

**Suspension of Standing Order No. 112**

A motion moved by Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., for the suspension of Standing Order No. 112, was put and carried on the following division:

**FOR**

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

**AGAINST**

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

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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

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

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Neendkumar

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

Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett

Mr. Nandlall

Dr. Ramsammy



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Mr. B. Williams  
Ms Ally  
Dr. Roopnarine  
Brig.(Ret.'d) Granger

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Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

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**Suspension of Standing Order No. 24(2)**

The National Assembly, on a motion by Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., suspended Standing Order No. 24(2) to allow Private Members' Business to have precedence at that sitting. The motion was 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

**AGAINST**

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

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Mr. Sharma  
 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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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  
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
 Mr. Nandlall  
 Dr. Ramsammy  
 Mr. Rohee  
 Mr. Hinds

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**Suspension of Standing Order No. 28(3)**

The Assembly also, on a motion by Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., suspended Standing Order No. 28(3) to allow a motion by Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, to be moved at that sitting. The motion was put and carried on the following division:

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**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  
Mr. Bond  
Ms Kisson  
Mr. Trotman  
Ms Selman  
Mr. Allicock  
Ms Wade  
Mr. Felix  
Ms Hastings  
Mr. Scott  
Lt. Col. (Ret.'d) Harmon  
Mr. Greenidge

**AGAINST**

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

Mrs. Backer  
Dr. Norton  
Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. B. Williams  
Ms Ally  
Dr. Roopnarine  
Brig.(Ret.'d) Granger

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Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
Mr. Nandlall  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

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### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.10 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.22 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

### **Ruling by the Speaker**

The Speaker made a statement on the motion by Brig. (Ret.'d) David Granger, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, to prevent the Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs from speaking in the National Assembly and ruled that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

The Speaker also ruled that the Fire Arms (Amendment) Bill 2012, not be proceeded with until the Committee of Privileges has reported thereon.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.45p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.13 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 3 - MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 23/2012 published on 2012-09-21**

At the request of the Minister of Finance the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

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

**(Read a first time on 2012-10-22)**

**ITEM 4 - SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 26/2012 published on 2012-10-29**

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Sexual Offences Act.

**(Read a first time on 2012-11-08)**

**ITEM 5 - BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 27/2012 published on 2012-10-30**

At the request of the Minister of Finance the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

14.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Business Names (Registration) Act.

**(Read a first time on 2012-11-08)**

**(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**BILL – Second Reading**

**ITEM 6 - OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL 2012 –**

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

At the request of Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., the second reading of the following Bill was 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 7 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – No.**

**15/2012**

At the request of Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., consideration of 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 8 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 16/2012**

At the request of Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., consideration of 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 9 - FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL  
2012 – No. 24/2012**

At the request of Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., consideration 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 –

16.

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 10 - FORMER PRESIDENTS (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES)**

**(AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – No. 25/2012**

At the request of Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., consideration of 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.

**(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 11 - CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PUBLIC**

**ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, moved the following motion:

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17.

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1) every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee, a Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Ninth Parliament, was unable, owing to the dissolution of Parliament on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, to conclude the work that was referred to it in that Session.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Tenth Parliament take into account all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

**(Notice Paper No. 101 (M43 Opp 25) published on 2012-11-08)**

The motion was put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7.20 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00p.m., on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

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

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2012.**

