

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2013**  
**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 (Absent – on leave)

**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 (Absent – on leave)

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., Government Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

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)

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. (Absent)

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 2.10 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**New Year's Greetings**

The Speaker extended New Year's Greetings to the Members of the Assembly, the press and the staff of the Parliament Office.

6.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 6/2012 – Supplementary Estimates (Capital) totalling \$2,000,000,000 for the period 2012-12-18 to 2012-12-31.

(Circulated)

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance named the next sitting for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

(2) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Water Incorporated for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

(1) **Flooding in the City on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2012**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following questions:

- (i) Would the Hon. Minister tell this House why the city flooded so rapidly on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 despite the Minister of Agriculture's announcement on national television that measures were in place to have all of the pumps working?
- (ii) Why is there a high amount of black oil in the water in America Street whenever there is flooding and is the Ministry aware of this?

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

7.

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

**(2) Collection of Garbage in South Georgetown**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following question:

Would the Hon. Minister tell the House why there has been no collection of garbage in the South Georgetown area since 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012?

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

**(3) School Feeding Programme for Children on the Coastland**

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following question:

Information indicates that a large number of school children who reside and attend schools on the coast of Guyana do so in a situation where they are denied at least one meal every day because of the impoverished circumstances of their parents.

Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this Honourable House:-

If the Minister of Education is prepared as a matter of urgency to extend her Ministry's programme, which provides meals to students attending schools in the hinterland areas to similarly needy children on Guyana's coastland?

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, on behalf of the Minister of Education, replied.

8.

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P., asked the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport replied.

(4) **Boat collision in the Pomeroun River**

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

On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 a boat assigned to the Regional Democratic Council, Region No. 2, collided with a small boat in the Pomeroun River. As a result of the collision, six of seven persons in the small boat were killed.

A statement issued by the Maritime Administration Department after a preliminary investigation stated that among other things the RDC boat left the scene of the accident without rendering assistance. Persons were left to die in the Pomeroun River.

Could the Honourable Minister present a more detailed report on the investigation into this accident and what action, if any, has been or will be taken against the Captain and crew of the vessel assigned to the RDC Region No. 2 and the Regional Chairman, Region No. 2, Mr. Parmanand Persaud, who was the senior Government official on the RDC boat?

Thereafter, the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics a supplementary question.

Thereafter the Minister of Transport and Hydraulic replied.



9.

(5) **Report by the Capita Symonds Group on Citizens Security Programme**

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P., asked the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the following question:

Could the Hon. Prime Minister, in his capacity as a Member of the Defence Board and the Leader of Government's Business in the National Assembly, inform this Hon. House when will the Government lay in the National Assembly, the report by the Capita Symonds Group on Citizens Security Programme which was made public on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012?

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS December 8, 2012 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Cuba;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Cuba for over five decades and more, especially since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Guyana, has consistently rendered valuable assistance in the areas of tertiary education; providing health care practitioners for over 30 years to Guyana's health care system; the provision of many eye surgeries to many Guyanese through

10.

“Operation Miracle”; the provision of other expertise and major material resources that have contributed to the development of Guyana and in particular the social sector;

AND WHEREAS this National Assembly recognises the tremendous progress made by the Government and people of Cuba in the development of their country notwithstanding the negative impact of the economic embargo imposed on that country;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding this longstanding embargo and consequently the daunting constraints and challenges, the Government and people of Cuba continue to maintain international solidarity with the developing world by making substantial contributions not only to the development of Guyana, but also to the development of the countries of the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, Asia and to humanity in general;

AND WHEREAS Guyana and Cuba continue to share common interests and concerns primarily in the areas of sustainable development, economic equity and social justice, the vulnerability of smaller economies in the region and combating climate change among others,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly on behalf of the people of Guyana conveys to the Government and people of Cuba our congratulations on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Guyana and Cuba;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly extends our gratitude to the Government and people of Cuba for the valuable assistance they have rendered to the people of Guyana while at the same time enduring great sacrifice;

11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That we the Members of this National Assembly will continue to call for the removal of the unjust economic and financial embargo against Cuba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly reaffirms our commitment to strengthening and deepening relations between our two countries to realize the legitimate aspirations of our peoples.

**(Notice Paper No. 113 (M48 Govt 17) published on 2012-12-12)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. George Norton

The Minister of the Public Service

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.53 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

The Minister of Health

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Komal Chand

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The following amendment by Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P., seconded by Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P., was put and carried:

Insert the following as the first AND WHEREAS clause:

“AND WHEREAS the Honourable Mr. Michael Manley; the Honourable Dr. Eric Williams; the Honourable Mr. Errol Barrow and the Honourable Mr. Forbes Burnham, the Prime Ministers of the then four independent English speaking countries of the Caribbean had the foresight and courage to agree to simultaneously establish diplomatic relations between their respective countries and the Republic of Cuba;”

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

After the first AND WHEREAS clause, insert the following:-

“AND WHEREAS the good relations between Guyana and Cuba date back to the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959;”

Thereafter, the motion as amended was put and carried.

### **Bills – Second Readings**

#### **ITEM 2 - 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)**

13.

**ITEM 3 - 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)**

**ITEM 4 - MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 23/2012 published on 2012-09-21**

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. James Bond

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 6** were passed as printed.

14.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Music and Dancing Licences (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ITEM 5 - SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 26/2012**

**published on 2012-10-29**

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

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Ms Bibi Shaddick

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 3** were passed as printed.

**Clause 4**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

Clause 4 – Table, Paragraph 5(2A):-

For the full stop substitute a colon and insert the following proviso:

“Provided that in respect of all charges which were instituted prior to the commencement of this amendment the accused or counsel on behalf of the accused shall file in the registry of the court all evidence for the defence for the purposes of the paper committal not later than forty five days after the date on which the magistrate reopened the paper committal.”

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

**Clause 5** was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 6 - BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill**

**No. 27/2012 published on 2012-10-30**

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

16.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 and 2** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Business Names (Registration) (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 7 - DEEDS AND COMMERCIAL REGISTRIES AUTHORITY BILL 2012 – Bill**

**No. 28/2012 published on 2012-11-19**

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

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.

**(Read a first time on 2012-11-22)**



**Presiding by Ms Bibi Shaddick, M.P.**

At 8.15 p.m., the acting Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Ms Bibi Shaddick took the Chair.

**Return of Acting Speaker**

At 8.40p.m, the Acting Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

**Presiding by Ms Bibi Shaddick, M.P.**

At 9.12 p.m., the acting Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Ms Bibi Shaddick took the Chair.

While Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Acting Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Mr. Manzoor Nadir continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Finance

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

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to conclude the debate on the Bill.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 6** were passed as printed.

**Clause 7**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

Clause 7(1) – Immediately after the words “Public Service” insert the words “and the Public Service Commission”.

Clause 7 was then passed as amended.

**Clauses 8 and 9** were passed as printed.

**Clause 10**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendment, which was put and carried:

Clause 10 – Immediately after subsection (9), insert the following as subsection (10) –  
“There shall be a Secretary to the Authority who shall be appointed by the Governing Board.”

Clause 10 was then passed as amended.

19.

Clauses 11 to 31 were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.01 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00p.m., on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

.....  
**MRS. DEBORAH BACKER, M.P.,**  
**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013.**