

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 41ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 1.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 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

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

*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. Shaddick, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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. Bulkan, 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) (Absent – on leave)

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 1.13 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

“Hon. Members, good afternoon. Our debate starts today so I am asking for the cooperation of

6.

all Members to ensure that each Member has an opportunity to speak and is heard, so we expect the minimum of interruptions and even as Mr. Greenidge starts the debate on behalf of the Opposition this afternoon, I would expect that he will be given the same level of courtesy and respect accorded to the Minister of Finance last Monday and that he will not be interrupted.

I have also asked the Clerk to ensure that there is a facility which has been placed in the lobby. I have asked the Clerk to ensure that there is a facility for Members, for photocopying purposes and for printing, so there is a desk and there is a photocopier available because I know that we may wish to reproduce previous speeches, statements or documents so that facility has been established immediately outside of the Chamber.

I had asked Members and those present to note our new times. We are to start at 1.00 p.m., promptly, go until 4.00 p.m., have a break at 4.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m., resume at 5.00 p.m. and go until 7.30 p.m., resume at 8.00 p.m. and go until 10.00 p.m. I ask us all to bear in mind that it is not just us who are here, but there are dozens of persons attending to the Assembly on the outside, the police officers, drivers, cleaners; persons who need to go to their families, so let us try to stick to the time.

The Clerk has also ensured that one of the Committee Rooms has been set aside and will be fully stocked with refreshments for use by Members should there be the need for discussions or any dialogue during this period.

For my final announcement, my guest this afternoon is the distinguished Senior Counsel from Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Stanley Marcus; a Guyanese who has been practicing in Trinidad since 1976 and who is also a good friend of Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. so we welcome Mr. Marcus who has distinguished himself as a practitioner in the twin-island republic. Thank you very much and we may proceed.”

7.

Request for Leave

The Speaker informed Members that leave had been granted to-

- Ms Amna Ally, Opposition Chief Whip,
- Mrs. Catherine Hughes and
- Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, for that day's sitting

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **IMPACT OF THE 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY'**

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this House whether an evaluation has been conducted to ascertain the impact of the 'No Child left behind Policy' on the delivery of education in Guyana.

(Notice Paper No.148 (Q 90 Opp. 89) published on 2013-02-05)

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

2. **ASSESSMENT OF THE 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY'**

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this House whether the Hon. Minister considers an assessment of the 'No Child left behind Policy' a necessity in relation to the improvement of the quality of education delivery in Guyana?

(Notice Paper No.149 (Q 91 Opp. 90) published on 2013-02-05)

8.

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

3. PAYMENT OF CLEANERS BY PARENT TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS (PTA)

Member Asking: Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister explain why Parent Teacher's Associations (PTA) are being asked to pay cleaners employed at senior secondary schools?

(Notice Paper No.161 (Q 103 Opp 101) published on 2013-02-06)

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2013 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2013

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2013.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2012-03-25)

While Mr. Carl Greenidge was speaking to the motion the sitting was suspended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 2.25 p.m., the sitting was suspended to allow the Chief Whips to consult with the Speaker on the time limit for Members during the Budget Debate.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.30p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013.

Mr. Carl Greenidge continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Keith Scott

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.20 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.20 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Public Works

Mr. Ronald Bulkan

The Minister of the Public Service

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.20 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.54 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert

Ms Annette Ferguson

Dr. Vindhya Persaud

Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.36 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 3rd April, 2013.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

2nd April, 2013.

