

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 90TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (38)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (3)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Absent)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

* The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs

* The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service (Absent)

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent)

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Absent)

* The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**O People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent– on leave)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.

Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P.

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) **Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)**

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) **Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

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 2.07p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) **By the Speaker of the National Assembly:**

Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of the Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2004.

(Circulated)

- (2) Mr. Winston Murray on behalf of Mr. James McAllister, M.P., (Chairman of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services), presented the First Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

For Written Reply

1. **ROAD REPAIRS FROM WISROC JUNCTION TO THE BLOCK 22 AREA**

Mr. Abdul Kadir, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works and Communications the following question:

Will the Minister of Public Works and Communications state, how soon would the road repairs from Wisroc junction going North to the one mile extension area and south to the Block 22 area be undertaken?

(Notice Paper No. 218 (Q129 Opp124) published on 2005-10-05)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Public Works and Communications:

Road repairs from Wisroc junction going North to the one mile extension area and South to the Block 22 area will be included in the work programme of the Ministry of Public Works and Communications in 2006.

For Oral Replies

2. **PURCHASE OF DRUGS TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS IN GUYANA**

Mrs. Shirley Melville, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*What was the amount of financial assistance received by the Government of Guyana to date from the Government of the United States of America for the purchase of drugs to fight HIV/AIDS in Guyana? And would the Minister provide details pertaining to the distribution of these drugs by region?

(Notice Paper No. 242 (Q136 Opp131) published on 2006-01-31)

The Minister of Health gave an oral answer.

3. **FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA TO FIGHT
MALARIA**

Mrs. Shirley Melville, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*What was the amount of funds donated and allocated through loans to the Government of Guyana to fight Malaria and would the Minister provide details about how the funds were spent and how these drugs were distributed to the various regions?

(Notice Paper No. 243 (Q137 Opp132) published on 2006-01-31)

The Minister of Health gave an oral answer.

A Supplementary Question was asked by Mrs. Shirley Melville, M.P., and was answered by the Minister of Health.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Reform of the European Union Sugar Regime

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation made a statement on the Reform of the European Union Sugar Regime.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BILL 2006 -Bill

No. 4/2006 published on 2006-01-16

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

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A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the scheme relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth; and to provide for mutual assistance in criminal matters between Guyana and countries that have a treaty with Guyana concerning such assistance.

(Read a first time on 2006-01-19)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer,
Mr. Bernard DeSantos,
Mr. Basil Williams and
Mrs. Sheila Holder.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 43 were passed as printed.

Clause 44

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

Clause 44(4):-

Delete the word "negative" in line 1 and insert the word "affirmative".

Clause 44 was then passed as amended.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

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Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill 2006, was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - RATIFICATION OF THE CARIBBEAN TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN SERIOUS CRIMINAL MATTERS

At the request by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the following motion was withdrawn:

WHEREAS the Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters was signed at Georgetown on January 5, 2006;

AND WHEREAS the Treaty was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Article 27 of the said Treaty makes provision for the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification with the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of Guyana having considered the Treaty hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Treaty and for the Government of Guyana to formally ratify the said Treaty by depositing the Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 247 (M106 Govt95) published on 2006-02-27)

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ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE FOR THE YEARS 2000 AND 2001

Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2000 and 2001 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 248 (M107 Govt96) published on 2006-03-03)

Suspension of Standing Order No. 9(2)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved that Standing Order No. 9(2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its business uninterrupted.

Mr. Donald Ramotar seconded and spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Winston Murray replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF ADVISOR

The Minister of Health, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. 80 dated 27th October, 2005, the National Assembly appointed a Select Committee to make recommendations to the National Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations of the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly Report of the Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor and his Addendum to his Report;

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AND WHEREAS by Resolution No. 85 dated 15th December, 2005, the National Assembly referred the recommendations of Study 1 of the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Report (The Bradford Report) and the Draft Revised Standing Orders to the Select Committee;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly stipulated that the Select Committee must ensure that all recommendations relating to rules, procedures and Standing Orders of the National Assembly were comprehensively considered in the light of the aforesaid reports and reported on to the National Assembly by 31st January, 2006;

AND WHEREAS because of the constraint of time and its expanded mandate the Select Committee was unable to complete its work by the deadline set at 31st January, 2006, and was, therefore, granted an extension of the deadline to 28th February, 2006 by Resolution No. 97 dated 8th February, 2006, of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Select Committee has submitted three Interim Reports to the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Select Committee has found it necessary to seek a further extension of the deadline for the submission of its Final Report to 30th March, 2006;

BE IT RESOLVED;

That this National Assembly approves of a further extension of the deadline for the submission of its Report to 30th March, 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 249 (M108 Govt97) published on 2006-03-14)

The motion was then put and carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 4.26 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

16th March, 2006.