

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 91ST 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, 6TH APRIL, 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 (Absent)

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

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)

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

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 (Absent)
- * 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
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
- * 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 - Pomeroon/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)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**0 People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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

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) (Absent)

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. 12 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) **By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):**

- (i) Minutes of Proceedings of the 18th Meeting of the Committee of Selection, which was held on Thursday, 16th March, 2006.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Report of Workshop on HIV/AIDS for Parliamentarians, sponsored by the National Assembly and the United Nations Population Fund.

(Circulated)

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- (iii) Declaration by the Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Guyana on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic emanating out of the Workshop on HIV/AIDS for Parliamentarians.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Competition and Fair Trading Bill 2005):

- (i) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Competition and Fair Trading Bill 2005 - Bill No. 18/2005.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Tourism Authority for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Annual Report for the year 2003.

(Circulated)

- (iv) The Guyana National Bureau of Standards Annual Report for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

- (i) The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health Annual Report for the year 2004.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee Annual Review for 2004.

(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Home Affairs (Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions):

The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission.

(Circulated)

- (5) By the Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 2005):

The Report of the Special Select Committee of the National Assembly on the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 2005 - Bill No. 9/2005.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-

Suspension of Standing Order Nos. 46(2) and 46(3)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order Nos. 46(2) and 46(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 6th April, 2006, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2005.

(Notice Paper No. 250 (M109 Govt98) published on 2006-03-28)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. **ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 7/2006**

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 Representation of the People Act and the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000.

2. **SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 8/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Shops (Consolidation) Act.

3. **PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 9/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utility Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration Act.

4. **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 10/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1997.

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5. **LICENSED PREMISES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 11/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Licenced Premises Act.

6. **LABOUR (CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 12/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) Act.

7. **LABOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 13/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Labour Act.

8. **HOLIDAYS WITH PAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 14/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Holidays with Pay Act 1995.

9. **EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 15/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Employment of Young Persons and Children Act.

10. **TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 16/2006**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Trade Unions Act.

11. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 17/2006**

The Minister of Housing and Water, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

12. **CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL 2006 - Bill No. 18/2006**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to promote and protect consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and services, to establish a Consumer Affairs Commission and a Consumer Fair Trading Tribunal, and for related purposes.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

**ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 7/2006 published on
2006-03-28**

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred to Monday, 10th April, 2006:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Representation of the People Act and the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.30 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 10th April, 2006.


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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

6th April, 2006.