

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 93RD 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, 13TH 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

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

* 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

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) (Absent)

** 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) (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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)**(i) 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) (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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)

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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

Mr. Ravindra Dev, 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 prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

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

The Occupational Safety and Health (Fees and Prescribed Forms)
Regulations No. 2 of 2006.

(Circulated)

(2) **By the Minister of Finance:**

(i) Financial Paper No. 1/2006 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$529,000,000 for the period 2006-02-21 to 2006-04-12.
(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 2/2006 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$3,376,095,652 for the period ended 2006-12-31.
(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 7/2006
published on 2006-03-28

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

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

(Read a first time on 2006-04-06)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams,
The Minister of Health,
Mr. Vincent Alexander,
The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
And
Mr. Ravindra Dev.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.59 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.33 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Joseph Hamilton,
Mr. Khremraj Ramjattan,
Mr. Donald Ramotar
and
Mr. Robert Corbin.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

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

“For the words “50(2) and 61(2)(a)” substitute the words “50(2), 58(3), 61(2)(a), 70(4) and form 2 in the Schedule”.

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3

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

“For the words “and 61(3)” substitute the words “, 61(3)” and form 23A in the Schedule”.

Clause 3 was then passed as amended.

Clause 4 was passed as printed.

Clause 5

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

“Section 84 of the Representation of the People Act is amended in the following respects -

(1A)(a) Where an election officer for a polling district discovers a material error on the Statement of Poll from a polling station for that polling district he shall inform the presiding officer for that polling station forthwith, and the presiding officer, if the Statement of Poll has not yet been sent to the Returning Officer, in the presence of the persons who signed the original Statement of Poll, shall prepare a corrected Statement of Poll signed by himself and the original signatories present and the corrected Statement of Poll shall be sent to the Returning Officer.

(b) Where the mistake is discovered when the Statement of Poll is in the possession of the Returning Officer, the presiding officer shall be informed of the mistake and the Returning Officer shall summon the presiding officer and the persons who signed the original Statement of Poll, for the purpose of effecting the necessary correction to the Statement of Poll by the presiding officer in the presence of the other persons mentioned in this paragraph, as attend.

(c) The presiding officer shall post the corrected Statement of Poll next to the original incorrect Statement of Poll at his polling station and the Returning Officer shall use the corrected Statement of Poll in making the public declaration under subsection (1)".

Clause 5 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 6 to 10 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the Elections Law (Amendment) Bill 2006 was read the third time and passed as amended on the following division:

AGAINST

Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Brancroft
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Kadir
Mr. Danny
Dr. Norton
Miss Adams
Miss Ally
Dr. Joseph
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Williams
Mr. Alexander
Mrs. Backer

FOR

Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Mustapha
Dr. Lall
Mrs. Sukhai
Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Edwards
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Chand
Mr. Alli
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Carberry
Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

Miss Rodrigues
Mr. Nadir
Mr. Xavier
Dr. Westford
Mr. Sawh
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Hinds

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MOTIONS

**ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT
COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Health, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Needs
Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 253 (M112 Govt 100) published on 2006-04-10)

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 3 - APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS IN THE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS
ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Health , moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly approves the Draft Standing Orders which are included as APPENDIX II in the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 254 (M113 Govt101) published on 2006-04-10)

The motion was forthwith, without any question being put thereon, referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.17 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 20th April, 2006.


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

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown.

13th April, 2006.