

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 95<sup>TH</sup> 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, 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2006**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**  
**BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)**

**Speaker (1)**

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

**Members of the Government (37)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (33)**

**(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

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. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)
- \* 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)
- \*\* 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. (Absent – on leave)  
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) (Absent)  
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

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**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)

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)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalgleish 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 – 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. (Absent – on leave)

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) (Absent)

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

(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. (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 2.07 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**DEATH OF MR. SATYADEOW SAWH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (AG)  
FISHERIES, OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK**

The Hon. Speaker, made the following statement:

“Hon. Members, as you are aware, Mr. Satyadeow Sawh, died tragically on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2006 after rendering thirteen (13) years of committed and distinguished service to Guyana and its Parliament, as an Ambassador and Minister of the Government.

In the mid 1990's at the invitation of the late President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Minister Satyadeow Sawh returned to Guyana from Canada where he had been based. Between 1975 and 1992, Minister Sawh served as a Member and President of the Association of Guyanese (ACG) and the political representative of the People's Progressive Party in Canada.

After his return to Guyana, Minister Sawh initially served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador (1993-1996). For his diplomatic service he was awarded the Order of Francesco Miranda of Venezuela and received several community awards in both Venezuela and Colombia.

Mr. Satyadeow Sawh was appointed a Minister of the Government with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1996, and was designated Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture. He subscribed the oath of office as a Member of Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1996.

Following the general elections on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1997, Mr. Sawh was appointed Minister of Livestock and Fisheries and declared to be a Member of Parliament on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1997.

After the General and Regional Elections held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2001, Mr. Sawh was again declared to be a Member of the National Assembly and was appointed Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2001.

In 2003, he was also tasked with the responsibility of acting as Minister of Agriculture up to the time of his demise.

As a Member of the National Assembly, he made numerous presentations in the Assembly on the work of the Government in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

6.

Honourable Members, please let us stand and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Minister of Agriculture (ag), Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock."

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**

By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

- (1) The National Registration (Residents) (Amendment) Regulations No. 3 of 2006.

(Circulated)

- (2) The National Registration (Residents) (Revision of Registers) Regulations No. 4 of 2006.

(Circulated)

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Resolution of Impending Constitutional Crisis**

A request by Mr. Vincent Alexander to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to address issues necessary for the Resolution of Impending Constitutional Crisis was disallowed.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Readings**

1. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 20/2006**

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 alter Article 61 of the Constitution in accordance with Articles 66 and 164.

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7.

2. **JUSTICE PROTECTION BILL 2006 - Bill No. 21/2006**

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 provide for the establishment of a programme for the protection of certain witnesses and other persons; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (AG) AND FISHERIES, OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, THE HON. SATYADEOW SAWH, M.P.**

The Prime Minister, moved the following amended motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana, at this sitting of the Assembly, held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 –

- place on record our shock and profound grief at the great loss to the Parliament of Guyana by the tragic death on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2006, of the Minister of Agriculture (ag) and Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock, the Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P.;

8.

- pay tribute to the committed and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and urge that urgent action be taken to bring the perpetrators to justice;
- direct that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

**(Notice Paper No. 257 (M116 Govt 104) published on 2006-04-26)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs Sheila Holder,

Mr. Ivor Allen,

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce,

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan,

and

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.14 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.



**BILLS - Second Readings**

**ITEM 2      SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 8/2006**  
**published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion

Thereafter, the Hon. Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The 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 Hon. Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Shop (Consolidation) Bill 2006, was read the third time and **passed and printed**.

**ITEM 3**      **PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
**ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 9/2006 published on**  
**2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.07 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.57 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Public Utility Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2006.

Thereafter, the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The Bill was then read the second time.

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

11.

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 5 were passed as printed.**

**The Schedule was passed as printed.**

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Public Utility Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2006, was read the third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 4 OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 -**  
**Bill No. 10/2006 published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 4 were passed as printed.**

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill 2006, was then read the third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 5**      **LICENSED PREMISES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 11/2006**  
**published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Licenced Premises Act.  
**(Read a first time on 2006-04-06)**

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 9** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Licensed Premises (Amendment) Bill 2006, was then read the third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 6      LABOUR (CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS)**  
**(AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 12/2006 published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 4** were **passed as printed**.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Amendment) Bill 2006, was read the third time and **passed as printed**.

**ITEM 7**      **HOLIDAYS WITH PAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 14/2006**  
**published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

**(Read a first time on 206-04-03)**

Mr. Basil Williams spoke to the motion.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 4** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Holidays With Pay (Amendment) Bill 2006, was then read the third time and **passed as printed**.

**ITEM 8**      **EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN**  
**(AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 - Bill No. 15/2006 published on 2006-04-03**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawrence,

and

The Minister of Education

Thereafter, the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

**In Committee**

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

**Clauses 3**

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Amendment 3 to read:-

1. “Amendment to section 3 of the Principle Act.”
2. Renumber 3 as 4.

Repeal and substitution of section 3 of Principal Act.

3. The Principal Act is amended by repealing sections 3, and substituting for it the following section –

“Restriction on employment of children and young persons.

3. (1) No person shall take any child into employment in any occupation or work.
- (2) No person shall take any young person into employment-
  - (a) at night in any industrial undertaking, except to the extent to which and the circumstances in which the employment is permitted under the Convention set out in Part 1 of the Schedule;
  - or
  - (b) which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of young persons.
- (3) Where any young person is taken into employment, the employer of that person shall -



17.

- (a) keep a register containing the person's name, date of birth, and the date on which that person enters and leaves the employment; and
  - (b) allow the Chief Labour Officer or any person authorized by the Chief Labour Officer to inspect the register at any time.
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, neither paragraph of subsection (2) limits or affects the other paragraph.”

Clauses 3 was then passed as amended.

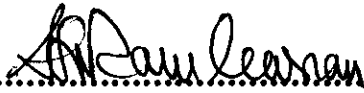
Clauses 4 was passed as printed

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Employment of Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Bill 2006, was then read the third time and passed as amended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.42 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2006.

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

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

**Public Buildings**

**Georgetown**

**27<sup>th</sup> April, 2006**