

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 44<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 1.00 P.M.**  
**ON FRIDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> 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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Dr. George Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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) (Absent – on leave)

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)

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 1.15 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Apology for late Start**

The Speaker apologised to Members for the late start of that day's sitting, which was a result of his visit to the Hospital to see Mr. Richard Allen, M.P.

**Meeting of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply**

The Speaker reminded Members of the meeting of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply which was schedule to be held during the suspension of that day's sitting at 4.00 p.m.

**First Aid Station**

The Speaker informed Members that the Parliament Office had set up a First Aid Station, to cater for minor emergencies that may arise during the course of the Budget Debate and consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure.

**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).

7.

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)**

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).

8.

**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)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

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

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.21 p.m., the sitting was resumed with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

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:

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Ms Africo Selman

Mr. Cornel Damon



9.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.30 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.35 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:

Ms Vanessa Kissoon

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with the budget debate uninterrupted.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Ms June Eula Maecello

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.59 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m., on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

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**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.**