

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 45<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 MONDAY, 8<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. (Absent – on leave)

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)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

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)

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.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent – on leave)

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 1.09 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

**Funeral for the Late Rev. Dr. Dale Bisnauth**

“Members are reminded that the funeral of the late Member of this August House, Dr. Dale Bisnauth is at 10.00 a.m. tomorrow at Burns Memorial Church which is in Irving and Anira Streets.

/...6

There is going to be cremation thereafter, at Good Hope Crematorium and I have discussed with the Whips and we have agreed that we will commence tomorrow's Sitting at 2.00 p.m. to allow Members of the House who wish to attend the funeral and perhaps the cremation to do so without any let or hindrance."

**Death of Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P.**

"The second announcement is on again a very sad note, that is, not to announce but mark the death of Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., Justice of the Peace (JP) who we learnt died early in the morning on the 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation. Pandit as he was known served in this house; first known as a House of Assembly - from 1964 to 1966 and it was on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1964 that Parliament recalled and had its first meeting and it was on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1965 that Pandit Persaud took the oath of office and became a Parliamentarian.

After Guyana gain Independence on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1966 he was named as a Member of Parliament in the First Parliament which lasted from 1966 to 1968. He was also a Member of the Second Parliament from 1969 to 1973 and took the oath of office for the Third Parliament on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1973, which lasted from 1973 and remained there until 1980. Mr. Persaud was designated a minority Chief Whip during the fourth Parliament which was from 1980 to 1985 and designated Deputy Speaker of this National Assembly in the Fifth Parliament from 1985 to 1992. In 1992, Mr. Persaud was designated Senior Minister of Agriculture in the Sixth Parliament from 1992 to 1997 and during the Seventh Parliament which lasted from 1997 to 2001, Mr. Persaud was again designated Senior Minister of Agriculture and later in that said Parliament he was given responsibilities for Parliamentary Affairs.

In the Eighth Parliament, spanning from 2001 to 2006, Mr. Persaud was designated Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Our former colleague also served as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee from 1968 to 1974.

7.

On a more personal note, I would like to say that I first got to know Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud in the Seventh Parliament and had good experience working alongside him on many critical matters that occupied our time and attention in those days, such as political dialogue between the parties to resolve differences and constitutional and parliamentary reforms. In Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud, I found an astute sometimes wily, but always formidable Politician. He was the epitome of the gentleman parliamentarian who was always gracious, respectful and extremely knowledgeable of the Constitution and Standing Orders of the National Assembly. To those who seek to uphold the Westminster type tradition of parliamentarianism, the Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud I thought was the best example I could offer.

He had style and panache and I believed that only once in the many years that I came up against him, that I saw him losing his calm and collective demeanor. He characterised the way we ought to practice politics in this Chamber and that is with decorum and dignity. I am extremely happy that in 2012, this National Assembly was able to recognise and honour the Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud for his long and outstanding contribution to the democracy of Guyana and it is always better I think to say thank you to someone in life than posthumously in death and so I leave the Chamber with the words of the Poet Rabindranath Tagore:

“Death has not extinguishing the light, it is only putting out the lamp as the dawn has come”.

I invite you all to stand as we observe one minute silence of the passing of Pandit Reepu Daman Persaud.

Thank you Hon. Members, kindly be seated. May his soul rest in peace.”

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

The Police Complaints Authority Annual Report for the year 2011.

(Circulated)

/...8

8.

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Guyana National Insurance Scheme Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2011.

(Circulated)

**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)**

**Answer:**

An evaluation of the “Grade Repetition/Retention and Automatic Promotion” policy is currently being undertaken. This fact is public knowledge as is evidenced by the dozens of news reports on said ongoing evaluation. Examples of said news reports can be found in Guyana Times, Tuesday, January 24, 2012; Kaieteur News, Thursday, May 24, 2012.

**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)**

9.

**Answer:**

The Honourable Minister considers assessment and evaluation necessary tools in the management of any system if quality output is the desired end result. The Grade Repetition/Retention and Automatic Promotion Policy is currently being assessed as may be evidenced from news reports such as Sunday Times, February 10, 2013.

**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)**

**Answer:**

The government pays cleaners and sometimes where more cleaners are needed PTAs meet that need. In any event the general issue of cleaners at schools is presently being reviewed.

**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)**

10.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Amna Ally

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Mr. Christopher Jones

The Minister of Home Affairs

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.15 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:

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

The Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.45 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 9.11 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

11.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013.

Mr. Odinga Lumumba also spoke to the motion:

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

At 9.35 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.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Bibi Shaddick

Mr. John Adams

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11.10 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

.....

**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

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

