

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 46TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 1.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2013
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (67)

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 (32)

(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(25)

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. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

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(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)

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 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

Ambulance Facility

“The announcements are first being that some of you or most of you would have noticed an ambulance in the compound. It is nothing to be exceptionally alarmed about. It is just as a

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precaution in keeping with the undertaking given by the Parliament Office to have every facility available. There was a stretcher in the foyer there which I have asked to be removed, because I think we may be taking it a bit too far, so the stretcher would go back to the ambulance and hopefully will not be used. It was only for demonstration purposes, not to be used.”

Resignation of Mr. Richard Allen, M.P.

“On a more serious note, Hon. Members, this morning I received a letter from Mr. Richard Allen informing me that he was resigning his seat a Member of Parliament with effect from the 5th April 2013. Mr. Allen’s resignation therefore means that his seat in this National Assembly has become vacant.

The vacancy, in accordance with Section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 103 of the Laws of Guyana, is to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Allen’s name was originally extracted. Mr. Allen’s name was extracted from A Partnership of National Unity’s list of candidates. I have, in accordance with Section 99A of the said Act, called upon the representatives of that said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of this National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.”

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 11/2013

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

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

(Circulated)

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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:

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Desmond Trotman

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.48 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. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.42 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

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

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 10.00 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.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 11.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 12.00 midnight the sitting was resumed.

CONCLUSION OF BUDGET DEBATE

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2013, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and dispose of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on Tuesday, 9th April, 2013, and considered proposals (with Schedules) from the Government and Opposition, respectively, for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013.

The Opposition's proposal, which was moved by Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., and seconded by Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., was passed by a majority vote.

The Government's proposal, which was moved by the Minister of Finance and seconded by the Minister of Housing and Water, was also considered and negated by a majority vote.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the proposals (with Schedules submitted) by the Government and Opposition should be reported to the Committee of Supply and printed and circulated with the Minutes of the Proceedings.

It was noted that the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Schedule submitted by the Opposition were circulated to Members at the sitting of the National Assembly on Tuesday, 9th April, 2013.

The Speaker further reported that the Sub-Committee had agreed that the date of the commencement of the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013, should be decided by the National Assembly.

The Minister of Finance informed the Assembly that the Government was not in agreement with the Resolution of the Business Sub-Committee and, as such, had submitted a Minority Report (with Schedule attached) of the Business Sub-Committee.

Thereafter, the Report of the Business Sub-Committee (with Schedule submitted by the Opposition) was put and negated on the following division:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Bibi Shaddick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud

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Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig.(Ret'd) Granger

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Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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The Minority Report of the Business Sub-Committee (with Schedule submitted by the Government) was also put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Bibi Shaddick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh

Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig.(Ret'd) Granger

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Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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Thereafter, the Speaker informed Members that both the Majority and the Minority Schedules were defeated and that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 74(4), the Resolutions shall stand recommitted to the Business Sub-Committee.

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 12.20 a.m., a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to adjourned the Assembly to 2.00 p.m. today, Wednesday, 10th April, 2013, was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams
 Ms Marcello
 Dr. Ramayya
 Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Ms Ferguson
 Mr. Morian
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Adams
 Ms Baveghems
 Mr. Sharma
 Mr. Bulkan
 Mr. Bond
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings
 Mr. Scott

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
 Mr. Damon
 Dr. Persaud
 Rev. Gilbert
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Chand
 Bibi Shaddick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali

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Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig.(Ret'd) Granger

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Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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At 12.25 a.m., the Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 8, was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th April, 2013.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

9th April, 2013.

