

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 72<sup>ND</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2014) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2014**  
**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. 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. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

**\*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), Deputy Speaker  
of the National Assembly

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

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

**\*\*Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

Dr. Karen Cummings, 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.

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

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)

Ms Rennita L. Williams, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

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

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (a.g.)

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.05 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

6.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

### **Gratitude to Members of Parliament, Clerk and Staff of the Parliament Office**

“Hon. Members, I would like to first personally thank every Member of the House, who shared the family’s bereavement with the passing of Mrs. Backer. Particularly, I would like to thank the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for the assistance given at the various events.”

### **Cancellation of Seminar**

“Hon. Members, I would like to further announce with some degree of extreme disappointment that a seminar which I had announced on the last occasion has been cancelled for reasons being that because of the budget debate ensuing we are unable to find an appropriate time. We are working on having that seminar held at the end of the month, but it is subject, of course, to the availability of the Members of Parliament from Scotland and, also of Professor Hazell who is lecturing.”

### **Ambulances**

“Hon. Members, you would have noticed, though with some degree of anguish I have no doubt, that there are two ambulances parked in the compound. I believe Dr. Ramsarran is making more of a statement than anything. We have today, a medical team available to the House and we would like to recognise and thank them. As I said to them when we met a few minutes ago, I have no doubt in my mind that we will not be needing their services, but I invited them to enjoy the debate. But should any Member feel he or she needs any special attention please approach one of the members of the team.”

7.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Reply**

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARAMAKATOI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Member Asking: Mrs. June Marcello, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Education**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House why construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School, Region 8 that started in April, 2012, has not been completed?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House when construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School would be completed?

**(Notice Paper No. 293 (Q 195 Opp. 193) published on 2014-02-13)**

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).

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND**

**MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NO. 71(2)**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 71(2) provides for five (5) days to be allotted for the debate on a motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure;

8.

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that the five days allotted by Standing Order No. 71(2) may be inadequate for the debate on the motion for the approval of the 2014 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure;

AND WHEREAS the Government and Opposition have agreed that the debate be extended to seven (7) days instead of five (5) days, as stated in Standing Order No. 71(2),

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 71(2) be suspended to enable the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2014 to be extended to seven (7) days.

**(Notice Paper No. 305 (M 100 Govt. 35) published on 2014-03-28)**

The motion was then put and carried.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### **Presentation and First Reading**

#### **LAND SURVEYORS BILL 2014 – Bill No. 7/2014**

At the request of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the presentation and first reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to enact a new Land Surveyors Act and to repeal the existing Act, to repeal the Surveys (Special Provisions) Act and to consolidate and reform the law governing the practice of land surveying, including aerial surveys, the preparation of plans, the maintenance of records of land surveys and for related matters.



9.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET SPEECH 2014 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2014**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2014.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2014-03-24)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

The Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Keith Scott

Rev. Kwame Gilbert

Mr. Ronald Bulkan

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.17 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 6.20 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 8.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion

Ms Vanessa Kissoon

Dr. Vindhya Persaud

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.20 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, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014.

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

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

**31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.**