

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

92nd Sitting

14:00H

Thursday 11 June 2009

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (1)

The Hon Hari N Ramkarran SC, MP

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

(i) *People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)*

(ii) *The United Force (1)*

The Hon Samuel A A Hinds MP (AOL)

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

*Prime Minister and Minister of
Public Works and Communications*

The Hon Clement J Rohee MP (Absent)

Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon Shaik K Z Baksh MP

Minister of Education

The Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy MP

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

Minister of Health

The Hon Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett MP (AOL)

(R# 9 - U Takutu/U Essequibo)

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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¹The Hon Dr Ashni Singh MP

Minister of Finance

The Hon Robert M Persaud MP (Absent)

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

Minister of Agriculture

The Hon Dr Jennifer R A Westford MP

(R#7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Minister of the Public Service

The Hon Kellawan Lall MP

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon Charles R Ramson SC, MP

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony MP

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon B H Robeson Benn MP

Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

²The Hon Manzoor Nadir MP

Minister of Labour

The Hon Priya D Manickchand MP (AOL)

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon Dr Desrey Fox MP

Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon Bheri S Ramsaran MD, MP

Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon Jennifer I Webster MP

Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon Manniram Prashad MP (Absent)

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

*The Hon Pauline R Sukhai MP (Absent)

Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Mr Mohamed Irfaan Ali MP

¹ *Non-elected Minister*

² *Elected Member from TUF*

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Minister of Housing and Water

Mr Donald Ramotar MP

Ms Gail Teixeira MP

Mr Harripersaud Nokta MP

Mrs Indranie Chandarpal MP

Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S Shadick MP

(R# 3 – Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Albert Atkinson JP, MP

(R# 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr Komal Chand CCH, JP, MP

(R# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Bernard C DeSantos SC, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs Shirley V Edwards JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Mohamed F Khan JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr Moses V Nagamootoo JP, MP

(AOL)

Mr Mohabir A Nandlall MP

(Absent)

Mr Odinga N Lumumba MP

Mr Neendkumar JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

³Mr Steve P Ninvalle MP

Parl'y Sect'ry in the Min. of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr Parmanand P Persaud JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury CCH, JP, MP

Parl'y Sect'ry in the Ministry of Housing and Water

Mr Dharamkumar Seeraj MP

Mr Norman A Whittaker MP

(R# 1 - Barima/Waini)

Dr Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo MP

³ *Non-elected Member*

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Rev Kwame Gilbert MP

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (28)

(i) People's National Congress Reform 1-Guyana (22)

Mr Robert HO Corbin (AOL)

Leader of the Opposition

Mr Winston S Murray CCH, MP

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl MP

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr E Lance Carberry MP

Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer MP

Mr Anthony Vieira MP (Absent)

Mr Basil Williams MP (AOL)

Dr George A Norton MP

Mrs Volda A Lawrence MP

Mr Keith Scott MP

Miss Amna Ally MP

Ms Cheryl Sampson MP

Mr Dave Danny MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Aubrey C Norton MP (Absent)

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Ernest B Elliot MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Miss Judith David-Blair MP

(R# 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr Mervyn Williams MP

(Re# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman MP

Dr John Austin MP (Absent)

(R# 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade MP

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

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Ms Vanessa Kissoon MP

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

Mr Desmond Fernandes MP

(Region No 1 – Barima/Waini)

(ii) Alliance For Change (5)

Mr Raphael GC Trotman MP *(Absent)*

Mr Khemraj Ramjattan MP

Mrs Sheila VA Holder MP

Ms Latchmin B Punalall MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr David Patterson MP *(Absent)*

(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild (1)

Mr Everall N Franklin MP

OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E Isaacs

Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs Lilawatie Coonjah

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

[The Clerk reads the Prayers]

The Speaker: Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Death of Mr Winslow Martin Zephyr, former Speaker of the National Assembly

Honourable Members, it is with deep regret that I have learnt of the death of Mr Winslow Martin Zephyr, a former Speaker of this National Assembly. Mr Zephyr, who was ailing for quite some time, succumbed yesterday in New York. Mr Zephyr first became a Member of the National Assembly with effect from the 24th of November, 1992. On the 23rd of October 2000, Mr Zephyr was elected to the ... to be the Speaker of the National Assembly, and he held that office until 4th May 2001.

Honourable Members, as we convey our condolences to the family, relatives and friends of Mr Winslow Martin Zephyr, please let us stand and observe one minute of silence as a mark of respect.

One minute of silence is observed.

Thank you.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 11 JUNE 2009
PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

Honourable Members, I present to the Assembly Minutes of the Proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the Committee of Selection which was held on Thursday 4th June, 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

Hon Charles Ramson: I rise Cde Speaker to which bill are you referring to?

The Speaker: This one would be the Summary Jurisdiction ?

Hon Charles Ramson: There are three of them, that's why I enquired.

The Speaker: Yes, that is the one first.

Hon Charles Ramson: Actually, it is the Administration of Justice Bill, 2009, which deals with summary jurisdiction ... Act 701

The Speaker: Yes, you are right. Sorry, my apologies.

Hon Charles Ramson: Cde Speaker, may I introduce in this Honourable House:

**The Administration of Justice Bill 2009 - Bill
No. 24/2009**

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A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the summary Jurisdiction (Petty Debt) Act to extend the civil jurisdiction of Magistrates' Courts

and I ask that it be read a first time.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Let the Bill be read for the first time, please.

Bill 2009, Bill No. 24/2009 read a first time

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development ...

Hon Kellawan Lall: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I wish to present:

The Fiscal Transfer Bill 2009 - Bill No. 25/2009

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the formulation and implementation of objective criteria for the purpose of the allocation of resources to and the garnering of resources by Local Democratic Organs and for matters connected therewith.

in my name, and ask that it be read a first time, and also that it be considered by the Special Select Committee.

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The Speaker: Mr Clerk could you read the Bill for the first time?

Bill 2009 - Bill No. 25/2009 read a first time.

The Bill is referred to a Special Select Committee appointed at the last session.

Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development ...

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr Speaker, I rise to present:

**The Municipal and District Councils
(Amendment) Bill 2009 - Bill No. 26/2009**

*A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Municipal and District Councils Act*

in my name, and ask that it be read a first time, and also that it be further considered by a Special Select Committee.

The Speaker: Let the Bill be read for the first time, please.

Bill 2009 - Bill No. 26/2009 read a first tim

The Bill is referred to a Special Select Committee.

Hon Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs ...

Hon Charles Ramson: Cde Speaker, may I introduce with your leave, Bill No. 27/2009:

The Bills of Sale (Amendment) Bill 2009 - Bill No. 27/2009,

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*A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Bills of Sale Act*

and would like this house to have it read a first time.

The Speaker: Let the Bill be read for the first time, please.

Bill 2009 - Bill No. 27/2009 read a first time.

Thank you.

Hon Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs ...

Hon Charles Ramson: I rise again, Cde Speaker, to introduce Bill No; 28/2009.

**The Summary Jurisdiction Lay Magistrates
Bill 2009 - Bill No. 28/2009**

*A BILL intituled AN ACT for the
constitution of Lay Magistrates' Courts for
the appointment of lay magistrates; for the
regulation of their jurisdiction, practice
and procedures and for other like
purposes.*

and ask that it be read a first time.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Let the Bill be read for the first time, please.

Bill 2009 - Bill No. 28/2009 read a first time.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 11 JUNE 2009
PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS (Second Reading)

**The Leader of the Opposition (Benefits and Other
Facilities) Bill 2009 – Bill No 16/2009 (published 30
April 2009)**

*A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for
benefits and other facilities to the Leader
of the Opposition*

Honourable Members, we can now proceed with the second reading of this Bill ...

Dr Singh ...

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr Speaker, I rise to ask that consideration of this Bill be further deferred to a future date.

The Speaker: Consideration of this Bill is deferred for another occasion.

Honourable Members, this brings us to the end of our business for today.

Honourable Member Mr Baksh ...

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Mr Speaker, I ask that the National Assembly be adjourned to Thursday, 18 June 2009.

The Speaker: Thursday the ...

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Hon Shaik Baksh: ... 18 June.

The Speaker: 18 June.

The National Assembly is adjourned to ... *[while the Deputy Speaker is entering ...]* We can now adjourn the National Assembly to Thursday, 18 June 2009.

Adjourned Accordingly At 14:12 H