



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC
OF GUYANA

OFFICIAL REPORT

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2020-2022) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE, LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

45TH Sitting

Thursday, 10TH February, 2022

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE
HANSARD DIVISION**

The Assembly convened at 11.04 a.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.,
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Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
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MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (38)

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Vice-President (1)

+ Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P.,
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Office of the President,
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[Absent]

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+ Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, M.P.,
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+ **Cabinet Member**

* **Non-Elected Speaker**

Senior Ministers (17)

+ Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P.,
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Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance.
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Kingston,
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+ Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P.,
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Ministry of Health,
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+ Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P.,
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+ *Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P.,
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* **Non-Elected Minister**

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Ministry of Amerindian Affairs,
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South Cummingsburg,
Georgetown.

+ Hon. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P.,
Minister of Labour,
Ministry of Labour,
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+ Hon. Vickram Outar Bharrat, M.P.,
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[Virtual Participation]

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[Absent]

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(Culvert City Lethem)

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Wismar, Linden.

Mr. Devin L. Sears, M.P.,
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Lot 90, Section C,
Wismar, Linden.

(ii) A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement (ANUG, LJP & TNM) (1)

Mr. Lenox R. O'Dell Shuman, M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,
St. Cuthbert's Mission,
Soesdyke Linden Highway.

[Virtual Participation]

Officers (2)

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Clerk of the National Assembly,
Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
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Ms. Hermina Gilgeours,
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly,
Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
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Ms. Shawnel Cudjoe,
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Reporter

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Ms. Lushonn Bess,
Reporter
Ms. Bianca Cummings,
Reporter
Mr. Rohan Ramjas,
Reporter
Ms. Nadeila Allen,
Reporter (a.g.)
Ms. Celisa DeFlorimonte,
Reporter (a.g.)
Mr. Parmanand Singh,
Pre –Press Technician
Mr. Saeed Umrao,
Audio Technician
Mr. Daison Horsham,
Audio Technician

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Apology for delayed start of Sitting

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, let me apologise for the delayed start today. In the last 24 hours, we have had a lot of busyness. We can now proceed, but my apologies for the late start to the business of today.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

[For Written Replies]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, on today's Order Paper, there are four questions, and all of these are for written replies. All of these questions are in the name of the Hon. Member, Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, and are for the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. The answers to these questions have been received and have therefore, in accordance with our Standing Orders, been circulated.

CONTRACT SIGNED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GUYANA FIRE SERVICE HEAD QUARTERS AT HOMESTRETCH AVENUE, GEORGETOWN.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: It has been reported in the Guyana Chronicle of November 24, 2021, that the Ministry of Home Affairs signed a \$600,000,000.00 contract for the construction of the Guyana Fire Service Head Quarters at Homestretch Avenue Georgetown.

1. Can the Honourable Minister state whether there was a public bidding process for the award of the contract? If yes, when, and where?
2. Can the Hon. Minister state whether the awardee/s was/were prequalified?
3. Can the Hon. Minister state the precise grounds under which the other bidders were disqualified?
4. Can the Hon. Minister provide the name of the Contractor(s) who was/were awarded the contract? Further, can the Minister state what experience this/these company/s has/have in the construction or reconstruction of Fire Head Quarters? Further, can the Minister state in detail the experience the company has in similar projects?
5. Can the Minister state whether the company that was awarded the contract for the construction of the

Head Quarters was previously awarded any other contract by the Ministry of Home Affairs? If yes, can the Minister indicate the nature and status of such contract?

6. Regarding (1) and (2), could the Hon. Minister state which entity was responsible for the evaluation and recommendation of the awards of the contract?
7. Can the Hon. Minister state what criteria was used in the pre-qualification and qualification process?
8. Can the Minister confirm whether this contract was awarded to the lowest bidder? If not, can the Minister state why the contract was not awarded to the lowest bidder?
9. Can the Hon. Minister state whether the Principal/s of any of the companies, which were awarded contracts, have any pending litigation against the Government of Guyana, or whether the Government of Guyana has any pending litigation against the Principal/s of these companies?
10. Can the Minister provide the National Assembly with a copy of the assessment and evaluation report justifying the awarding of the contract to the awardee(s)?
11. Can the Hon. Minister state what percentage of the total budgeted allocations for 2020 has been expended on the award of this contract?

Minister of Home Affairs [Mr. Benn]:

1. Yes, there was a public bidding process. Solicitation of bids were done in the Guyana Chronicle, Stabroek News, Kaieteur News and Guyana Times newspapers from the 6th to 24th October, 2021
2. No, the awardee was not prequalified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Mohamed's Enterprise was awarded the Contract for Construction of Headquarters, Guyana Fire Service.
4. Yes. Mohamed's Enterprise was awarded the Contract for the Construction of the Lusignan Prison — Lot 1 by the National Procurement

and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB). This project is approximately 80% completed.

5. The National Procurement Tender Administrative Board was responsible appointing the evaluation committee and it was that committee that made its recommendation for the award of the contract.
6. The Ministry is not aware of any pre-qualification process. Evaluation was done by an
7. Evaluation Committee appointed by NPTAB, and that Committee determined qualification of bidders.
8. No, I cannot confirm whether this contract was awarded to the lowest bidder as the Ministry was not part of the evaluation process.
9. No, I cannot state whether the Principal/s of any of the companies which were awarded contracts have any pending litigation against the Government of Guyana or vice versa.
10. No. The Evaluation Report is in the possession of the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB).
11. 2.5% of the total budgeted allocation for 2021 (Agency Level) and 14.1% of the 2021 capital budgeted allocation.

REVIEW OF THE FIRE SERVICE ACT

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd of October, 2021, hosted by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”. Can the Minister indicate whether there is likely to be a review of the Fire Service Act with the aim of having in place a comprehensive legislation?

Mr. Benn: The Guyana Fire Service Act would have been in existence for over sixty-five (65) years. With a view of the past and present commercial, economical and fire related conditions in Guyana, the Guyana Fire Service Act is somewhat antiquated, giving urgent need for amendments to be made to a few chapters of the act.

PRELIMINARY OR FINAL REPORT FROM THE GUYANA FIRE SERVICE IN RELATION TO THE FIRE AT THE BRICKDAM POLICE STATION.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Hon Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire.

A. Can the Minister indicate whether he is in receipt of a preliminary or final report from the Guyana Fire Service in relation to the fire? If yes, can the Minister provide a copy of this report to the National Assembly? If no, can the Minister indicate how soon will the report be available to the Assembly?

B. Can the Minister say how was the said report generated and

C. what was the methodology used to determine the findings of the said report?

D. Can the Minister indicate if a Board of Inquiry was established to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the fire and can the Minister share the terms of reference of the said Board of Inquiry with the Assembly?

E. Apart from any investigations conducted by the Guyana Fire Service, can the Hon. Minister indicate whether the government has any intentions to have this fire investigated independently or seek international assistance? If yes, have you established any team to investigate this fire at the level mentioned above? Additionally, can the Hon. Minister state what are the intended terms of reference for any such independent Inquiry, and do you plan to solicit international assistance in any regard?

F. Can the Hon. Minister state whether the government has any intentions to consult with civil society, Parliamentarians, or any other non-governmental organization to be a part of the process?

G. Can the Minister state in relation to (d), if the process has not begun, can he indicate the reason for the delay?

H. Is there any intention or consideration by Cabinet to establish a Commission of Inquiry into this major national disaster?

Mr. Benn:

A. Yes, there is a final report on the incident. The matter is receiving attention at the Courts and the finalized report will be eventually made available to the National Assembly.

B. The report was generated via the normal routes of inspection, interviews and experimental tests on various related materials.

C. No.

D. No. The failure in the departure in SOPs of the Guyana Police Force are being evaluated and addressed.

E. There is no delay.

F. All matters relating to arson attacks of a similar nature are receiving the highest consideration and attention.

FIRE HYDRANTS IN GUYANA AND THEIR LOCATIONS.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Hon Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire.

(a) Can the Minister provide a list of all fire hydrants in Guyana and their locations? Can the Minister indicate what percentage of these are functional?

(b) Can the Minister indicate how long fire hydrants that are not functional have been in this state? Can the Minister list all actions that have been taken to fix these fire hydrants?

(c) Can the Minister indicate what percentage of public buildings in the country do not have access to a fire hydrant due to their absence or as a result of the hydrants not being functional?

(d) Can the Minister indicate whether an assessment was conducted to determine whether there is a need

for additional fire hydrants? If yes, can the Minister indicate the locations that are in need for additional fire hydrants.

(e) Can the Minister indicate whether all fire hydrants within the country have ready access to water? If not, can the Minister indicate the locations of those fire hydrants that do not have ready access to water and the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that all fire hydrants have a ready access to water?

Mr. Benn:

(a) It must be noted that of the seven hundred and seventy-seven (777) hydrants that are available Country wide only 33% are fully functional. See attachment 1.1

(b) In the city of Georgetown, hydrants were inoperable for a number of years where the city developed, and the hydrants were left behind. A total of 471 fire hydrants were found to be inoperable in Georgetown following an assessment

(c) by the Guyana Fire Service. Several actions were taken to fix Fire Hydrants in and around the city. This was done in conjunction with Brass Aluminum Cast Iron Foundry to fabricate new hydrants using compatible mouldings and 151 hydrants were repaired by Compass Industrial Services.

(d) A definite answer is not available. However, the Guyana Fire Service has an ongoing campaign, with direct focus on the implementation of new Fire Hydrants at specific Key Points (KP's) and Vulnerable Points (VP's), rehabilitation of existing ones and the upgrading of other Fire Hydrants around the country.

(e) An assessment was conducted to determine whether or not there is need for more Fire Hydrants in and around the Capital City and by extension within the other Administrative Regions and as a consequence it was observed that there is need for Fire Hydrants in Vreed-en-Hoop, Parika, Charity, Diamond, Dairy, Rose Hall, Corentyne, Canjé, Linden, Port Kaituma, Lethem, Bartica, Anna Regina and Mabaruma.

(f) Not all fire hydrants have access to water, in the country only a few hydrants are disconnected from

the main due to vehicular accidents. These hydrants are deemed to be needing major repairs and will be repaired with the remainder of the inoperable hydrants.

Attachment 1.1

LIST OF FIRE HYDRANTS COUNTRY WIDE

<i>No</i>	<i>Type of Hydrant</i>	<i>Location of Hydrants</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Pillar	Water & America Streets -- Popeye's	Operable
2.	Pillar	Water Street – Guyana Stores Ltd	Operable
3.	Pillar	Water Street – Muneshwers Shipping	Operable
4.	Pillar	Water & Holmes Streets – Old Giftland Mall	Operable
5.	Pillar	Water Street -- Avinash Building 1	Operable
6.	Pillar	Water Street -- Avinash Building 2	Operable
7.	Pillar	Water & Hope Streets – Mattai's	Operable
8.	Pillar	Water Street -- Color Center	Operable
9.	Pillar	Water Street -- Tropical Products	Operable
10.	Pillar	Water Street -- Opposite Abattoir	Operable
11.	Pillar	Lombard Street – Ramroop's Furniture Store	Operable
12.	Pillar	Lombard Street – Builder's Lumber Yard	Operable
13.	Pillar	Cornhill Street – West of Parliament Building	Operable
14.	Pillar	Hadfield Street – Linden Minibus Park	Operable
15.	Pillar	Brickdam – Parliament Building	Operable
16.	Pillar	High Street & Brickdam	Operable
17.	Pillar	Croal Street – Opposite Demico House	Operable
18.	Pillar	America & Longden Streets	Operable
19.	Pillar	Commerce Street	Operable
20.	Pillar	High Street – Parliament Building East Fence	Operable
21.	Pillar	High & Hadfield Streets (Ashmin's Building)	Operable

22.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic & Charlotte Street	Operable
23.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic – Abdool & Abdool	Operable
24.	Pillar	Hincks Street – Quality Bakery	Operable
25.	Pillar	Regent Street – Torginol Paints	Operable
26.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic – Opposite Copa Airline	Operable
27.	Pillar	North Road – NBS	Operable
28.	Pillar	North Road & Kirkpatrick Street	Operable
29.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic & North Road	Operable
30.	Pillar	Holmes Street & Rosemary Lane	Operable
31.	Pillar	Hope Street – St. Thomas Church	Operable
32.	Pillar	Main Street – Palm Court	Operable
33.	Pillar	Main & New Market Streets	Operable
34.	Pillar	Water & Holmes Streets –	In Order
35.	Pillar	Urquhart Street and Water Street	Operable
36.	Ground	Cowan Street – GECOM	Operable
37.	Pillar	Fort Street – Ministry of Public Works	Operable
38.	Pillar	High Street, Kingston – Digicel	Operable
39.	Pillar	Parade – Young Street	Operable
40.	Pillar	Parade Street, in front Mercy Hospital	Operable
41.	Pillar	Duke Street – Next to American Embassy	Operable
42.	Pillar	Barrack & Duke Street	Operable
43.	Pillar	Robb & King Street	Operable
44.	Pillar	Church & Carmichael Streets – Flower Shop	Operable
45.	Pillar	Waterloo Street – Christ Church	Operable
46.	Pillar	Wellington & Regent Streets	Operable
47.	Pillar	Camp Street – Prime Minister’s Office	Operable
48.	Pillar	Camp Street and New Market Street – UPS	Operable
49.	Pillar	Camp Street – Nanda’s Boutique	Operable

50.	Pillar	Camp Street – Next to Demerara Bank	Operable
51.	Pillar	Camp & Norton Streets	Operable
52.	Pillar	Queen's College Compound (eastern side)	Operable
53.	Pillar	Queen's College Compound (western side)	Operable
54.	Pillar	Queen's College Compound (behind the canteen)	Operable
55.	Pillar	In front GTI, Woolford Ave	Operable
56.	Pillar	Lamaha & Thomas Streets	Inoperable
57.	Pillar	Albert & Sixth Streets	Inoperable
58.	Pillar	Lot 104 Leopold Street, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
59.	Pillar	Lot 82 Leopold Street, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
60.	Pillar	Durban & Cross Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
61.	Pillar	Durban & John Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
62.	Pillar	George & Norton Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
63.	Pillar	Princess & Adelaide Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
64.	Pillar	In front St. Stephens School, Georgetown	Operable
65.	Pillar	St. Stephens & Evans Streets	Operable
66.	Pillar	St. Stephens & Broad Streets	Operable
67.	Pillar	St. Stephens & Howes Streets	Operable
68.	Pillar	Lombard & Schumaker Streets	Inoperable
69.	Pillar	133 Light Street, Alberttown	Inoperable
70.	Pillar	Saffon Street – River View Machine	Inoperable
71.	Pillar	Infront Movie Town Store, Alexander Street, Kitty	Operable
72.	Pillar	Hope Street lot 12 A	In Order
73.	Pillar	Lot 124 Barima Avenue, Opposite Ministry of Education	Operable
74.	Pillar	Lot 60 Barima Avenue, next to CIC Insurance Brokers	Operable
75.	Pillar	Lamaha Gardens, Next to GWI Well	Operable
76.	Pillar	Lot 113 Light Street, Alberttown	Operable
77.	Pillar	New Market Street	Inoperable

78.	Pillar	Cowan Street – Cara Suites	In Order
79.	Pillar	Regent & Cummings Streets, Bourda	Operable
80.	Pillar	Regent & Orange Walk, Bourda	Operable
81.	Pillar	Robb & Wellington Streets	Operable
82.	Pillar	In front of Police Consumers Robb Street	Operable
83.	Pillar	Robb & Albert Streets	Operable
84.	Pillar	Brickdam & Austin Place, Ministry of Agriculture	Inoperable
85.	Pillar	Infront Ministry of Labor Next to College Road, Brickdam	Operable
86.	Pillar	In front Japarts, Croal Street	Inoperable
87.	Pillar	In front Lot 13 Hadfield Street, Lodge	Inoperable
88.	Pillar	In front Lincos Building, Regent Street	Operable
89.	Pillar	Regent & King Streets	Operable
90.	Pillar	King Street & South Road	Inoperable
91.	Pillar	Lombard & Hadfield Streets	Operable
92.	Pillar	Durban and Palm Street	Inoperable
93.	Pillar	Lamaha and Peter Rose Street	Inoperable
94.	Pillar	Lombard and Brickdam, by Demico	Operable
95.	Pillar	Middleton Street, over canal at school	Operable
96.	Pillar	Water Street, Vendors Arcade	Operable
97.	Pillar	Water Street (opposite Republic Bank)	Operable
98.	Pillar	Water and Robb Streets (Fogartys)	Operable
99.	Pillar	Water Street (Opposite Muneshwar's Travel Service)	Operable
100.	Pillar	Water Street (Ravinas/ National Hardware)	Operable
101.	Pillar	Water and Holmes Street	Operable
102.	Pillar	Water Street (Guyana Stores)	Operable
103.	Pillar	Urquhart Street and New Market Street (German's Restaurant)	Operable
104.	Ground	Urquhart and Main Street (Ministry of Finance)	Operable
105.	Ground	Main Street (Prime Minister Residence)	Operable

106.	Pillar	Water Street (Fogartys)	Operable
107.	Pillar	Camp & Charlotte Streets	In order
108.	Pillar	Camp Street – Qik Serv	Inoperable
109.	Pillar	Howes and Saffon Streets	Inoperable
110.	Pillar	Russel & Sussex Streets	Inoperable
111.	Pillar	Cummings & Lamaha Streets	Inoperable
112.	Pillar	Lot 5 Lamaha Street, between Light & Cummings Streets	Inoperable
113.	Pillar	Lot 11 Lamaha Street, between Light & Cummings Streets	Inoperable
114.	Pillar	George & Leopold Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
115.	Pillar	Leopold & Smyth Streets, Werk-en-Rust	Inoperable
116.	Pillar	John & Princess Streets, Werk-en-Rust	In Order
117.	Pillar	Sussex & Adelaide Street	Inoperable
118.	Pillar	Adelaide & Howes Street	Inoperable
119.	Pillar	Adelaide & and Evans Streets	Inoperable
120.	Pillar	Sussex & Lying Streets	Inoperable
121.	Pillar	Lying & Howes Streets, Charlestown	Inoperable
122.	Pillar	Lying and Evans Streets	Inoperable
123.	Pillar	Broad & Charles Streets, Charlestown	In Order
124.	Pillar	Lot 29 Howes Street, in front Xclusive Water Depot	Inoperable
125.	Ground	James & Curtis Streets	In Order
126.	Ground	James & Callender Streets	Inoperable
127.	Ground	Carmichael and Lamaha Streets (Post Office)	Operable
128.	Pillar	Woolford Avenue (Stella Maris Primary School)	Operable
129.	Pillar	Woolford Avenue (Stella Maris Primary School)	Operable
130.	Pillar	Queen's Collage Compound (behind canteen)	Operable
131.	Pillar	Queen's Collage Compound Western side	Operable
132.	Pillar	Camp and South Road (Citizen bank)	Operable
133.	Pillar	Hunter Street & Middle Road	Inoperable

134.	Pillar	St. Stephens School (Front)	Operable
135.	Pillar	Lot 134 Middle Road & Independence Boulevard	Inoperable
136.	Pillar	Opposite Lot 179 Middle Road	Inoperable
137.	Pillar	Infront of Lot 89 Second Street, Alexander Village	Inoperable
138.	Pillar	Lot 117 Third Street, Alexander Village	In order
139.	Pillar	Infront of lot 161 Fourth Street	In Order
140.	Pillar	Mandela Avenue (Back Road), Cool Square Corner	Inoperable
141.	Pillar	Mandela Avenue (Back Road), opposite Vlissengen Road by GWI Well (Rasville)	In Order
142.	Pillar	Lot 49 Austin Street Kitty between Railway Embankment & Campbell Avenue, Campbellville	Inoperable
143.	Pillar	Station Street, Kitty	Inoperable
144.	Pillar	Lot 170 Garnett Street, Newtown, Kitty	Inoperable
145.	Pillar	Charles & Howes Streets	Inoperable
146.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic and Robb Street	Operable
147.	Pillar	Howes & Ketley Streets	Inoperable
148.	Pillar	Lot 16 William Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
149.	Pillar	Delph Avenue & Campbell Avenue, Campbellville	Inoperable
150.	Pillar	Lot 16 Seaforth Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
151.	Pillar	Vlissengen Road (Office of the President)	Operable
152.	Pillar	First Street & Church Road, Subryanville	Inoperable
153.	Pillar	Second Street & Church Road, Subryanville	Inoperable
154.	Pillar	Third Street & Church Road, Subryanville	Inoperable
155.	Pillar	Fourth Street & Church Road, Subryanville	Inoperable
156.	Pillar	Lot 15 Earl's Avenue, Subryanville	Inoperable
157.	Pillar	Fourth Street & Earl's Avenue, Subryanville	In Order
158.	Pillar	Shell Road & Alexander Street, Kitty	In Order
159.	Pillar	Barr & Alexander Street, Kitty	In Order

160.	Pillar	Alexander & Thomas Streets, Kitty	Inoperable
161.	Pillar	Alexander & Gordon Streets, Kitty	In Order
162.	Pillar	Alexander & Pike Streets, Kitty	In Order
163.	Pillar	Lot 21 Sandy Babb Street, Kitty	Inoperable
164.	Pillar	Lot 27 Middleton Street, Newtown	Inoperable
165.	Pillar	Lot 56 Station Street, Kitty	Inoperable
166.	Pillar	Lot 153 Lamaha Street, Newton Kitty (In front empty lot)	Inoperable
167.	Pillar	Lot 217 Lamaha Street, Newton Kitty	Inoperable
168.	Pillar	Mandela Avenue (opposite Plaza Bridge and Mini Mart)	Operable
169.	Pillar	Lot 38 Garnett Street, Kitty	Inoperable
170.	Pillar	Lot 210 Garnett Street, Kitty	Inoperable
171.	Pillar	Lot 36 D'Andrade Street, Newtown	Inoperable
172.	Pillar	Lot 92 D'Andrade Street, Newtown	Inoperable
173.	Pillar	Lot 172 D'Andrade Street, Newtown	Inoperable
174.	Pillar	Lot 244 D'Andrade Street, Newtown	Inoperable
175.	Pillar	Lot 94 Da Silva Street, Newtown	Inoperable
176.	Pillar	Lot 46 Da Silva Street, Newtown	Inoperable
177.	Pillar	Lot 14 William's Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
178.	Pillar	Barima Avenue & Abary Street	Inoperable
179.	Pillar	Lot 12 Barima Avenue	Inoperable
180.	Pillar	Infront Thirst Park/ Banks DIH Saffon Street (main Entrance)	Operable
181.	Pillar	Vlissengen Road & Barima Avenue	In Order
182.	Pillar	Lot 64 Eping Avenue	Inoperable
183.	Pillar	Lot 'A' 120 Eping Avenue	Inoperable
184.	Pillar	Lot 53 Lamaha Avenue	Inoperable
185.	Pillar	Lot 251 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
186.	Pillar	Lot 215 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
187.	Pillar	Duncan and Eastern Highway Lamaha Gardens	Inoperable

188.	Pillar	Garnett & Bel Air Avenue	Inoperable
189.	Pillar	Stone & William Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
190.	Pillar	Lot 33 Dennis Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
191.	Pillar	Lot 352 Sachibazaar Street, Campbellville	Inoperable
192.	Pillar	Lot 41 Upper David Street after upper David North	Inoperable
193.	Pillar	UG Compound (in front Technology)	Operable
194.	Pillar	Lot 10 Belvoir Court, Bel Air	Inoperable
195.	Pillar	Lot 26 Belvoir Court, Bel Air	In Order
196.	Pillar	Lot 21 Belvoir Court, Bel Air	Inoperable
197.	Pillar	Main Road, Bel Air, next to Bel Air Nursery School	Inoperable
198.	Pillar	Sub Lot '3' Area 'S' Bel Air	Inoperable
199.	Pillar	Lot 9 Back Street, Bel Air	Inoperable
200.	Pillar	Lot 33 Back Street, Bel Air	Inoperable
201.	Pillar	Lot D 1 Main Road Bel Air	Inoperable
202.	Ground	New Garden & Anira Streets, Queenstown	In Order
203.	Ground	Oronoque & Laluni Streets, Queenstown	Inoperable
204.	Pillar	Oronoque & Lance Gibbs Streets, Queenstown	Inoperable
205.	Pillar	Lot 147 Albert and 5th Street, Alberttown	Inoperable
206.	Pillar	Light & 5th Street, Alberttown	Inoperable
207.	Ground	Shiv Chanderpaul Drive & North Road, Bourda	In Order
208.	Pillar	Roti Hut North Road & Albert Street	Inoperable
209.	Pillar	North Road & Alexander Street, Lacytown	Inoperable
210.	Pillar	Brickdam & Chalmers Place	Inoperable
211.	Pillar	Infront Hughes, Fields & Stoby Law Firm, Hadfield & Cross Streets	Inoperable
212.	Pillar	Infront of Christaf's Pawn Shop South Road between King & Wellington Streets	Inoperable
213.	Pillar	South Road & Orange Walk	Inoperable

214.	Ground	South Road & Light Street	Inoperable
215.	Pillar	Hadfield Street & Boyle Place	In Order
216.	Pillar	Hadfield Street & Lime Street	Inoperable
217.	Pillar	Infront of Lot 97 Hadfield between George & Smyth Streets	In order
218.	Pillar	Hadfield street at old Keishars	Inoperable
219.	Pillar	Infront Lot 43 Hadfield Street, Lodge	Inoperable
220.	Pillar	Infront Lot 52 Hadfield Street, Lodge	Inoperable
221.	Pillar	Infront Lot 61 Hadfield Street, Lodge	Inoperable
222.	Pillar	Charlotte & Bourda Streets	Inoperable
223.	Pillar	Back of Camp Street Prison, Durban & John Streets	Inoperable
224.	Pillar	Durban & Bishop Streets	Inoperable
225.	Pillar	Durban & Louisa Row	Inoperable
226.	Pillar	Infront Next Generation Building, Durban Street Pollydore Street	Inoperable
227.	Pillar	Durban Street Lot 71 Joseph Pollydore Street	Inoperable
228.	Pillar	Durban & Chapel Streets	In order
229.	Pillar	Lot 15 Durban Street Lodge	Inoperable
230.	Pillar	Durban & Victor Streets, Lodge	In Order
231.	Pillar	Lot 54 Durban Street Lodge	In Order
232.	Pillar	Durban & Mandela Avenue	Inoperable
233.	Pillar	Lot 5 Norton Street, Lodge	Inoperable
234.	Pillar	Norton & Louisa Row	Inoperable
235.	Pillar	Princess & Palm Streets	Inoperable
236.	Pillar	Norton & Bishop Streets	In Order
237.	Pillar	Norton & Green Streets	Inoperable
238.	Pillar	Durban & Green Streets	Inoperable
239.	Pillar	New Market & Thomas Street	Inoperable
240.	Pillar	New Market & East Streets (Below Street Sign) hospital	Inoperable
241.	Pillar	Durban And Harding	In Order

242.	pillar	Lying and Broad Street	Inoperable
243.	pillar	Cross and Leopold Street	Inoperable
244.	pillar	Third and Cross Street (115 3rd Street)	Inoperable
245.	Pillar	Lot 22 Norton Street Lodge	Inoperable
246.	Pillar	Durban and Camp Street	Inoperable
247.	Pillar	City Constabulary	In Order
248.	Pillar	Princess and Bishop Street	Inoperable
249.	Pillar	Lot 41 kitty	In Order
250.	Pillar	Lot 58 station street Kitty	Inoperable
251.	Ground	South and Shiv Chanderpaul Drive	Inoperable
252.	Pillar	Princess and Lombard Street	Inoperable
253.	Pillar	Lombard and Cornhill Street old GNCB	Inoperable
254.	Pillar	Lot 17 Hadfield Street	Inoperable
255.	Pillar	Princess at City Council compound	In Order
256.	Pillar	Cowan Street Kingston	Inoperable
257.	Pillar	Lama Avenue/Vlissengen Road	Inoperable
258.	Pillar	Lot J Lama Avenue	Inoperable
259.	Pillar	Lamaha Gardens Opposite GWI well	Inoperable
260.	Pillar	Stone Avenue/ Enachu Street Campbellville	In Order
261.	Pillar	Stone Avenue (City Taxi Service)	In Order
262.	Pillar	Lot 144 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
263.	Pillar	Lot 156 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
264.	Pillar	Lot 172 Lamaha Gardens	Inoperable
265.	Pillar	Lot 119 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
266.	Pillar	Lot 215 Lamaha Gardens	In Order
267.	Pillar	308 Kamoia Street Lamaha Gardens	In Order
268.	Pillar	Garnett/ Eastern Highway Lamaha Gardens	Inoperable
269.	Pillar	Garnett/ Bel Air Avenue, Lamaha Garden	Inoperable

270.	Pillar	Craig Street/ Stone Avenue Campbellville	Inoperable
271.	Pillar	33 Dennis Street Campbellville	Inoperable
272.	Pillar	Stone Avenue and Dennis Street Campbellville	Inoperable
273.	Pillar	First Street Stone Avenue Campbellville	Inoperable
274.	Pillar	Lot 8 Omai Street Eastern Highway Campbellville	In Order
275.	Pillar	Omai Street Eastern Highway Campbellville	Inoperable
276.	Pillar	Eastern Highway and Pike Street Campbellville	In Order
277.	Pillar	Stone Avenue and Upper David Street	In Order
278.	Pillar	122 Upper David Street Campbellville	In Order
279.	Pillar	Stone Avenue, North End	Inoperable
280.	Pillar	Sachibazaar Street and Eastern Highway Campbellville	In Order
281.	Pillar	Lot 315 Rohintal Street Campbellville	In Order
282.	Pillar	Bissessar Avenue and Nanhole Terrace	In Order
283.	Pillar	Stone Avenue and Pike Street	In Order
284.	Pillar	Eastern Highway and Bissessar Avenue	In Order
285.	Pillar	Stone Avenue and Campbell Avenue	Inoperable
286.	Pillar	Stone Avenue 5th Street Campbellville	Inoperable
287.	Pillar	Sheriff and Pike Street Campbellville	Inoperable
288.	Pillar	Sheriff Street Campbellville	Inoperable
289.	Pillar	Sheriff and 1st Street Campbellville	In Order
290.	Pillar	Sheriff and Duncan Street Campbellville	Inoperable
291.	Pillar	Sheriff and Garnett Street Campbellville	Inoperable
292.	Pillar	K33 Sheriff Street Campbellville	Inoperable
293.	Ground	Irving and Church Street Queenstown	Inoperable
294.	Ground	Irving and Forshaw Street Queenstown	Inoperable
295.	Ground	234 Irving Street Queenstown	In order
296.	Ground	Irving and Lance Gibbs Street Queenstown	In order
297.	Ground	Irving Street opposite Survival Supermarket	In order

298.	Ground	Irving and Crown Street Queenstown	In order
299.	Pillar	Water & Hadfield Streets --	Operable
300.	Pillar	Lombard & Sussex Streets	Operable
301.	Ground	181 Irving Street Queenstown	In order
302.	Ground	Irving and Laluni Street Queenstown	In order
303.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic and America street	Operable
304.	Ground	129 Irving Street Queenstown	In order
305.	Pillar	Avenue of the Republic & Regent Street	Operable
306.	Pillar	Hincks Street – GTM	Operable
307.	Pillar	Church Street – Museum	Operable
308.	Pillar	Main Street – Courts	Operable
309.	Ground	Irving and Anira Street Queenstown	In order
310.	Ground	Irving Street Queenstown	In order
311.	Pillar	Camp & Hadfield Streets	Operable
312.	Ground	Anira and Peter Rose Street Queenstown	In order
313.	Ground	Laluni and Peter Rose Street Queenstown	In order
314.	Ground	273 Forshaw and Peter Rose Street Queenstown	In order
315.	Ground	Crown	In order
316.	Ground	283 Forshaw Street	In order
317.	Ground	291 Church Street Brazil embassy	In order
318.	Ground	Church and Oronoque Street	In Order
319.	Ground	Church and New Garden Street	In Order
320.	Ground	Church and Irving Street	In Order
321.	Pillar	Charlotte and King Street	In Order
322.	Pillar	Camp Street (Tony's footwear)	Inoperable
323.	Pillar	Thomas and Lamaha Street	In Order
324.	Pillar	Queens Collage Compound Eastern side	In Order
325.	Pillar	Camp Street (Prison)	In Order

326.	Pillar	George and Bent Street	In Order
327.	Pillar	George and Leopold Street	Inoperable
328.	Pillar	Adelaide and Broad Street	In Order
329.	Pillar	Charles and Lying Steet (Nita Variety Store)	In Order
330.	Ground	James And Albouys Street Albouystown	Inoperable
331.	Pillar	Opposite St. Pius School Middle Road	Operable
332.	Ground	James and La Penitence Avenue	Inoperable
333.	Pillar	Lot 60 1st Alexander Village	In Order
334.	Pillar	Vlissengen Road East	In Order
335.	Pillar	Vlissengen Road West	In Order
336.	Pillar	76 Seaforth Street Campbellville	Inoperable
337.	Pillar	Austin Street and Campbell Avenue	Inoperable
338.	Pillar	Stanley Place and Barr Street Kitty	In Order
339.	Pillar	Shell Road and Stanley Place Kitty	In Order
340.	Pillar	172 Shell Road Kitty	Inoperable
341.	Pillar	Gordon Street and Stanley Place Kitty	In Order
342.	Pillar	5th Street Lamaha and Earl's Avenue	In Order
343.	Pillar	14 Public Road Kitty (Kanhai's Electrical)	In Order
344.	Pillar	Shell Road and Lamaha Street Kitty	Inoperable
345.	Pillar	Lot 12 Pike Street Kitty	Inoperable
346.	Pillar	Lot 81 Lamaha Street, Newtown Kitty	Inoperable
347.	Pillar	Lot 90 Garnett Street, Newtown Kitty	Inoperable
348.	Pillar	Lot 32 Eping Avenue Middletown	Inoperable
349.	Pillar	Eping Avenue Rupununi	Inoperable
350.	Pillar	Middletown Barima Avenue	Inoperable
351.	Pillar	Lot 13 Lana Avenue	Inoperable
352.	Pillar	Home Stretch Avenue (Castellano House)	In Order
353.	Pillar	21 Belvoir Court Belair	In Order

354.	Ground	North Road and Cummings Street	Inoperable
355.	Ground	Lot 20 Church of Christ North Road Bourda	Inoperable
356.	Pillar	Lot 53 Lord Street North East La Penitence	Inoperable
357.	Pillar	Toucan Street North East La Penitence	Inoperable
358.	Pillar	Lot 329 Harpy Drive North East La Penitence	In Order
359.	Pillar	Lot 485 Kiskadee Drive North East La Penitence	Inoperable
360.	Pillar	Mandela avenue Opposite GWI Well	Operable
361.	Pillar	Lot 393 Harpy Drive North East La Penitence	Inoperable
362.	Pillar	Lot 461 Toucan Street North East La Penitence	Inoperable
363.	Pillar	Lot 15 North East Road & Mandela Avenue (go slow avenue)	Inoperable
364.	Pillar	Lot 256 Freeman Street East La Penitence	In Order
365.	Pillar	Lot 233 Freeman Street East La Penitence	In Order
366.	Pillar	Opposite Brickdam Secondary School, Freeman Street East La Penitence	In Order
367.	Pillar	Lot 199 Freeman Street East La Penitence	Inoperable
368.	Pillar	Lot 50 Freeman Street East La Penitence	In Order
369.	Pillar	Freeman Street East La Penitence (In front Liana Nursery)	In Order
370.	Pillar	Lot 276 Small Corner Vlissengen East Ruimveldt	In Order
371.	Pillar	Market Street East Ruimveldt	Inoperable
372.	Pillar	Lot 53 California Square East Ruimveldt	In Order
373.	Pillar	Lot 173 Pineapple Street East Ruimveldt	In Order
374.	Pillar	Trench and Front Road East Ruimveldt	Inoperable
375.	Pillar	Lot 311 Self Help Square East Ruimveldt	In Order
376.	Pillar	Lot 378 Mango Lane East Ruimveldt	Inoperable
377.	Pillar	Lot 543 Genip Lane East Ruimveldt	In Order
378.	Pillar	Robb & Bourda Streets	Operable
379.	Pillar	Dabi's Store Robb Street	Operable
380.	Pillar	Lot 600 Genip Lane East Ruimveldt	Inoperable

381.	Pillar	Lot 481 Genip Lane East Ruimveldt	In Order
382.	Pillar	Lot 727 Avocado Square East Ruimveldt	Inoperable
383.	Pillar	Lot 825 Front Road East Ruimveldt	Inoperable
384.	Pillar	Mandela Avenue/ backroad and Texas Square	In Order
385.	Pillar	Infront of National Culture Center, Homestretch Avenue (No. 1 main gate)	Operable
386.	Pillar	Hadfield Street between Camp Street & Boyle Place	Operable
387.	Pillar	Lot 643 Mandela Avenue/ Backroad (wings and things)	Inoperable
388.	Pillar	Lot 757 Mandela Avenue (GTM sign Board)	In order
389.	Pillar	Infront East Ruimveldt Secondary School	Inoperable
390.	Pillar	Lot 1 Front Road and Vlissengen Road West Ruimveldt	In order
391.	Pillar	Infront Wesleyan Church Front Road West Ruimveldt	In order
392.	Pillar	Lot 66 Orchid Street West Ruimveldt	In order
393.	Pillar	Lot 84 Crescent Road West Ruimveldt	In order
394.	Pillar	Lot 356 Crescent Road Gill House Square West Ruimveldt	In order
395.	Pillar	Lot 222 Ivy Lane West Ruimveldt	In order
396.	Pillar	Orchid Street and Cactus Road West Ruimveldt (behind West Ruimveldt Fire Station)	Inoperable
397.	Pillar	Lot 517 Hibiscus Place West Ruimveldt	In order
398.	Pillar	Infront Outreach Ministry Church, Durban Street Lodge	Operable
399.	Pillar	Lot 501 Hibiscus Place West Ruimveldt	In order
400.	Pillar	Lot 556 West Ruimveldt Front Road	Inoperable
401.	Pillar	Lot 114B Laing Avenue	Inoperable
402.	Pillar	Laing Avenue by Fire Station Alley way	Inoperable
403.	Pillar	Lot 66 Laing Avenue	Inoperable
404.	Pillar	Lot 407 West Ruimveldt front Road	In order
405.	Pillar	Lot 15 Hibiscus Drive and Orchid Street West Ruimveldt	In order
406.	Pillar	Rose and Corlita Street in front Ascension Secondary School	Inoperable
407.	Pillar	Lot 588 Hibiscus Place	Inoperable

408.	Pillar	Hibiscus Place Opposite Alexander Village Nursery School	Inoperable
409.	Pillar	Lumber Dealer at Industrial Site	Inoperable
410.	Pillar	Guyhoc Gardens/ Shirley Field village at GWI well	Inoperable
411.	Pillar	Lot 28 Guyhoc Gardens road entrance Behind GWI well	In Order
412.	Pillar	Lot 20 E Guyhoc Garden/ Shirley Field	In Order
413.	Pillar	Guyhoc Garden Lot A5	In Order
414.	Pillar	Lot K 41 Guyhoc Gardens	In Order
415.	Pillar	Lot 198 Orchid Drive and Vlissengen Road Rasville	In Order
416.	Pillar	Lot 211 Vlissengen Road and Caneview Rasville	In Order
417.	Pillar	Infront Thirst Park Saffon Street	In Order
418.	Pillar	Industrial Site at National Hardware Bond	Inoperable
419.	Pillar	Industrial Site at Torginol Bond	Inoperable
420.	Pillar	Lot 148 Roxanne Burnham Garden Jasmine Lane	In Order
421.	Ground	James and Bel Air Street (Albouystown Health center)	Operable
422.	Pillar	Infront Massy Staff Facilities, first and Saffon street Alexander Village	Operable
423.	Pillar	Infront Massy Store Saffon Street and Mandela Avenue	Operable
424.	Pillar	UG Compound Medical Centre	Operable
425.	Pillar	Front Tucville Secondary School	Operable
426.	Pillar	Infront of Alpha Apostolic Tabernacle RBG	In Order
427.	Pillar	Regent Street and Avenue of the Republic	Operable
428.	Pillar	Lot 106 Daisy Road, Roxanne Burnham Garden	In Order
429.	Pillar	Lot 119 Bogina Lane RBG	In Order
430.	Pillar	Hope Street East of Thomas Church	Operable
431.	Pillar	Lot 41 Roxanne Burnham Garden	In Order
432.	Pillar	Camp & Robb Streets	Operable
433.	Pillar	Lot 59 Poinsettia Lane and Caneview RBG	In Order
434.	Pillar	Lot 161 Critchlow Avenue south Ruimveldt	Inoperable
435.	Pillar	Lot 57 Orealla Avenue and El Dorado Avenue	Inoperable

South Ruimveldt

436.	Pillar	Lot 38 Wren Avenue and Sugar Cane Road South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
437.	Pillar	Lot 3911 Shopping Plaza South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
438.	Pillar	Lot 9870 Newton Prophet Square South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
439.	Pillar	Caneview and Green Heart Street South Ruimveldt	In Order
440.	Pillar	Lot 193 Green Heart Street South Ruimveldt	In Order
441.	Pillar	Green Heart Street and Aubrey Barker Road South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
442.	Pillar	Aubrey Barker Road and Baramita road South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
443.	Pillar	Baramita Street and Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
444.	Pillar	Lot 39 Cauliflower Circle	In Order
445.	Pillar	Lot 80 Daisy Drive	In Order
446.	Pillar	Lot 102 Fern Drive	In Order
447.	Pillar	Lot 181 Sunflower Circle	In Order
448.	Pillar	Lot 159 Sunflower Circle	In Order
449.	Pillar	Lot 258 Sasky Drive	In Order
450.	Pillar	Lot 1148 Crane Place South Ruimveldt	In Order
451.	Pillar	Regent Street & Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Bourda	Operable
452.	Pillar	Regent & Light Streets, Bourda	Operable
453.	Pillar	Robb & Alexander Streets	Operable
454.	Pillar	Robb & Orange Walk	Operable
455.	Pillar	Lot 240 Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
456.	Pillar	Lot 520 Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
457.	Pillar	Lot 614 Penny Lane and Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
458.	Pillar	Junction of High Palm Road and Caneview South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
459.	Pillar	Kirk Dale Drive Lot 489	In Order
460.	Pillar	Lot 660 Toucan Drive	In Order
461.	Pillar	Lot 620 Woodpecker Toucan Drive	In Order
462.	Pillar	Lot 555 Woodpecker Toucan Drive	Inoperable

463.	Pillar	Lot 547 Aubrey Barker Road and Penny Lane	Inoperable
464.	Pillar	Lot 07 Aubrey Barker Road	In Order
465.	Pillar	Church Street Guyana Stores	Operable
466.	Pillar	Main Street (G.C.I.S)	Operable
467.	Pillar	Battery Road Kingston	Operable
468.	Pillar	1266 South Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
469.	Pillar	1275 South Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
470.	Pillar	1752 South Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
471.	Pillar	1722 Caneview South Ruimveldt	In Order
472.	Pillar	3805 Beaver Street North Ruimveldt	In Order
473.	Pillar	3744 Iguana Street North Ruimveldt	In Order
474.	Pillar	3656 Christiani Street North Ruimveldt	In Order
475.	Pillar	3641 Christiani Street North Ruimveldt	In Order
476.	Pillar	2985 North Ruimveldt	In Order
477.	Pillar	2960 North Ruimveldt	In Order
478.	Pillar	3055 North Ruimveldt	In Order
479.	Pillar	81 North Ruimveldt	In Order
480.	Pillar	Well Road North Ruimveldt (empty lot)	In Order
481.	Pillar	2586 North Ruimveldt	In Order
482.	Pillar	2878 North Ruimveldt	In Order
483.	Pillar	2881 Well Road North Ruimveldt	In Order
484.	Pillar	UG Compound Library	In Order
485.	Pillar	UG Road Infront GWI well	Inoperable
486.	Pillar	UG Compound Registrar	In Order
487.	Pillar	Lot 3455 Bel Air Spring	In Order
488.	Pillar	Lot 42 Bel Air Spring	Inoperable
489.	Pillar	Lot 34 Bel Air Spring	Inoperable
490.	Pillar	Lot 10 Bel Air Spring	Inoperable

491.	Pillar	Lot 16 Bel Air Spring	Inoperable
492.	Pillar	Lot 6 Bel Air Spring	Inoperable
493.	Pillar	Lot 22 Bel Air Gardens	Inoperable
494.	Pillar	Lot 35 Bel Air Gardens	In Order
495.	Pillar	Lot 16 Bel Air Gardens	Inoperable
496.	Pillar	Liliendaal Pump Road Opposite Lot 40	Inoperable
497.	Pillar	Lot 4 Liliendaal Pump road	Inoperable
498.	Pillar	Lot 4 First Street Liliendaal	Inoperable
499.	Pillar	Empty Lot at First Street Liliendaal	Inoperable
500.	Pillar	Lot 5 Durban Backlands	In order
501.	Pillar	Lot 9 Durban Backlands	In order
502.	Pillar	Well Road Pump Station	Inoperable
503.	Pillar	Regent and Camp Street Lacytown	Operable
504.	Pillar	286 Lamaha Park, Lamaha Spring	Inoperable
505.	Pillar	Carmichael Street Bishops High School	Operable
506.	Pillar	Carmichael Street Ministry of Legal Affairs	Operable
507.	Ground	Carmichael Street State House	Operable
508.	Pillar	Carmichael and Promenade Gardens	Operable
509.	Pillar	236 Lamaha Park, Lamaha Springs	Inoperable
510.	Pillar	Opposite Lot 246 Lamaha Park	Inoperable
511.	Pillar	2584 Kaikan Street	In order
512.	Pillar	Opposite 2565 Kaikan Street and Well Road	In order
513.	Pillar	2558 Spring View Avenue	In order
514.	Pillar	Lot 2292 Soufriere Street	In order
515.	Pillar	Lot 2333 Cul de Sac Street	In order
516.	Pillar	Lot 2429 Cul de Sac Street	In order
517.	Pillar	2240 Ozama Street	In order
518.	Pillar	2195 Layou Street	In order

519.	Pillar	Lot 2065 Mittleholzer Street	In order
520.	Pillar	Festival City Well	Inoperable
521.	Pillar	1946 E.R. Borrowes Street	Inoperable
522.	Pillar	1888 Blue Mountain Street	Inoperable
523.	Pillar	1986 Nutmeg Street	In Order
524.	Pillar	2109 Nutmeg Street	In Order
525.	Pillar	Regent and Oronoque Street Bourda	Operable
526.	Pillar	2103 Williamstad Street	In Order
527.	Pillar	1825 Unity Street	In Order
528.	Pillar	1793 Hummingbird Street	In Order
529.	Pillar	1000 Critchlow Street	In Order
530.	Pillar	I 16-929 Critchlow School	In Order
531.	Pillar	K 36 Critchlow Street	Inoperable
532.	Pillar	L 7- 1021 Critchlow Street	Inoperable
533.	Pillar	3410 Stevedore Housing Scheme	Inoperable
534.	Pillar	3444 Stevedore Housing Scheme	Inoperable
535.	Pillar	3464 Stevedore Housing Scheme	Inoperable
536.	Pillar	3551 Stevedore Housing Scheme	Inoperable
537.	Pillar	3919 Stevedore Housing Scheme	Inoperable
538.	Pillar	Turning Point GWI Service Station	Inoperable
539.	Pillar	Tucville GWI Well	In Order
540.	Pillar	4155 Tucville	Inoperable
541.	Pillar	34 Tucville	Inoperable
542.	Pillar	161 Guyhoc	Inoperable
543.	Pillar	119 Guyhoc Mazaruni Street	Inoperable
544.	Pillar	553 Tucville Canary	Inoperable
545.	Pillar	538 Go Slow Tucville Canary Road	In Order
546.	Pillar	66 Prairie East La Penitence	Inoperable

547.	Pillar	Lot A 42 Morocut Square	Inoperable
548.	Pillar	Lot 215 Bamboo Drive	Inoperable
549.	Pillar	Lot 205 Samaan Drive	Inoperable
550.	Pillar	Lot 226 Samaan Drive	Inoperable
551.	Pillar	209 Takuba Street	Inoperable
552.	Pillar	164 Middle Street	Inoperable
553.	Pillar	235 Toeniba Street	In Order
554.	Pillar	Lot 30 Macaino Street	Inoperable
555.	Pillar	Lot 6C Bamboo Drive	In Order
556.	Pillar	Lot 185 Bamboo Drive	Inoperable
557.	Pillar	Lot 106 Meadow Brook Drive	Inoperable
558.	Pillar	Lot 124 Silverballi Street	Inoperable
559.	Pillar	Lot 88 Wallaba Square	In Order
560.	Pillar	Lot 88 Macaino Street Tucville	Inoperable
561.	Pillar	Lot 41 Wallaba Square	Inoperable
562.	Pillar	Lot 57 Wallaba Square	In Order
563.	Pillar	opposite 77 Wallaba Square	Inoperable
564.	Pillar	Latchmansingh and Tucville Bridge	Inoperable
565.	Pillar	Lot 718 East Front Road	Inoperable
566.	Pillar	Rubis Gas Station Mandela Avenue	In Order
567.	Pillar	Opposite Transfiguration Church Mandela Avenue	Inoperable
568.	Pillar	Lot 85 Brutus Street Agricola	In Order
569.	Pillar	Lot 89 Remus Street Agricola	Inoperable
570.	Pillar	Brutus and Romulus Street Agricola	In Order
571.	Pillar	Lot 85 Romulus Street Agricola	In Order
572.	Pillar	Caesar and Brutus Street Agricola	In Order
573.	Pillar	Lot 104 Caesar Street Agricola	In Order
574.	Pillar	Titus and Brutus Street Agricola	In Order

575.	Pillar	154 Titus Street Agricola	Inoperable
576.	Pillar	59 Brutus Street Agricola	In Order
577.	Pillar	Lot 61 Phillip Park Agricola	In Order
578.	Pillar	Agricola Public Road Infront Well	In Order
579.	Ground	Croal Street (GTT parking lot)	Inoperable
580.	Ground	Camp Street (Santa Rosa Church)	Inoperable
581.	Ground	Quamina and East Street	In Order
582.	Ground	Main Street (GPL)	In Order
583.	Pillar	336 East and Quamina Street	Inoperable
584.	Ground	239 Quamina Street Cummingsburg	In Order
585.	Pillar	Opposite 225 F New Market Street	Inoperable
586.	Ground	111 Albert Street Alberttown	Inoperable
587.	Pillar	98 Amla Avenue Prashad Nagar	In Order
588.	Pillar	175 Shribasant Street Prashad Nagar	In Order
589.	Pillar	247 Purslaham Street Prashad Nagar	In Order
590.	Pillar	Purslaham and Decbirant Street	In Order
591.	Pillar	GDF front gate	Inoperable
592.	Pillar	GDF opposite Auditorium	Inoperable
593.	Pillar	GDF credit union	Inoperable
594.	Pillar	GDF Welfare Department	In Order
595.	Pillar	GDF Captain's Accommodation	In Order
596.	Pillar	GDF Signals Building	In Order
597.	Pillar	Behind TSU Barracks	Inoperable
598.	Pillar	Rabbit Walk (training School)	Inoperable
599.	Pillar	Police collage Mess	Inoperable
600.	Pillar	Police Classroom #1	Inoperable
601.	Pillar	Rabbit Walk police	Inoperable
602.	Pillar	3790 Beaver Street North Ruimveldt	Inoperable

603.	Pillar	3294 Buttercup Street South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
604.	Pillar	3284 Hoven Place South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
605.	Pillar	3274 Lamaha Place South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
606.	Pillar	Opposite 3200 Rosa Drive South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
607.	Pillar	2781 Rosa Drive South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
608.	Pillar	2772-3 Rosa Drive South Ruimveldt	Inoperable
609.	Ground	28 Lamaha Street	Inoperable
610.	Pillar	35 Dennis Street Sophia	In order
611.	Pillar	Exhibition Site Sophia Entrance	Inoperable
612.	Pillar	Exhibition Site Sophia Back entrance	Inoperable
613.	Pillar	Exhibition Site Sophia Ball Field	Inoperable
614.	Pillar	National Cultural Centre (Homestretch)	Inoperable
615.	Pillar	National Cultural Centre (Homestretch)	Inoperable
616.	Pillar	Plot 44B Durban Backlands	Inoperable
617.	Pillar	257 Luckhoo Street Lodge	Inoperable
618.	Pillar	16 Jamoon Drive Meadow Brook	Inoperable
619.	Pillar	246 Luckhoo Street Lodge	In order
620.	Pillar	353 Arapaima Street Guyhoc	Inoperable
621.	Pillar	4284 ER Borrowes North Ruimveldt	Inoperable
622.	Ground	North Road Bourda at Church of Christ	Inoperable
623.	Ground	Wellington and North Road (Gizmos and Gadgets)	Inoperable
624.	Pillar	Lombard Street in front old bank	Inoperable
625.	Pillar	Hadfield and Breda Street	Inoperable
626.	Ground	Church Street Infront Baichandeen Inc	Inoperable
627.	Ground	Church Street Infront Austin Book Store	In Order
628.	Ground	Church Street Queenstown Infront India High Commission	In Order
		Joe Singh Sophia Area Opposite The Children and	Inoperable
629.	Pillar	family centre	

630.	Pillar	James and Hill Street Albouystown	Inoperable
631.	Ground	James and Non Pariel Street	Inoperable
632.	Ground	James Street Albouystown	Inoperable
633.	Ground	Lot 91 BPI Guyana, Carmichael and New Market Street	In Order
634.	Ground	Middle Street in front Hand in Hand Co operation	In Order
635.	Ground	Main Street in front President office	In Order
636.	Ground	Ministry of Legal Affairs	Inoperable
637.	Pillar	Walker Terrorised	Inoperable
638.	Ground	Norton Street and Louisa Road	Inoperable
639.	Pillar	Opposite George Sookhoo store between Camp	Inoperable
		Street & Alexander Street	
640.	Ground	Durban and George Street Opposite Elegance Jewelry	Inoperable
641.	Ground	Lot 17 Durban Street	Inoperable
642.	Ground	Lot 14 Bent Street Opposite Camp Street Prison	Inoperable
643.	Ground	Lot 25 Durban Street	In Order
644.	Ground	Durban Street Infront St Thomas Moore Primary School	Inoperable
645.	Ground	Durban Street Opposite Betten Court	Inoperable
646.	Pillar	Regent Street in front City Hall Entrance	Operable
647.	Ground	Durban Street Opposite Lot 59	Inoperable
648.	Ground	Lot 51 Durban Street	Inoperable
649.	Ground	Durban Street Infront Archer's House	In Order
650.	Ground	Joseph Pollydore Street and Cemetery Road	Inoperable
651.	Ground	Norton Street and Cemetery Road	Inoperable
652.	Ground	Lot 49 Norton Street	In Order
653.	Ground	Lot 18 Norton Street	Inoperable
654.	Ground	Lot 14 Norton Street	Inoperable
655.	Ground	Lot 10 Norton Street	In Order

Linden

1	Ground	Toucan Drive Linden	In Order
2	Ground	Highway Boulevard Linden	In Order
3	Ground	Highway Boulevard Linden	In Order
4	Ground	Highway Boulevard North Amelia's Ward Linden	In Order
5	Ground	Church Avenue North Amelia's Ward Linden	In Order
6	Ground	Main Street North Amelia's Ward Linden	In Order
7	Ground	City Gate Street North Amelia's Ward Linden	In Order
8	Ground	Roundabout Linden	In Order
9	Ground	Lovers Lane Third & Fourth Corner Linden	In Order
10	Ground	Lovers Lane Fifth Corner Linden	In Order
11	Ground	Lot 136 Hipini Oval Linden	Inoperable
12	Ground	Baruda Oval and Purple Heart Street Linden	Inoperable
13	Ground	Independence Avenue and Purple Heart Street	Inoperable
14	Ground	Lot 224 Yuraballi Street Linden	Inoperable
15	Ground	Lot 520 Yuraballi Street Linden	Inoperable
16	Ground	Steam Power Plant Compound	Inoperable
17	Ground	Lot 182 Accabire Road Linden	Inoperable
18	Ground	Lot 189 Accabire Road Linden	Inoperable
19	Ground	Lot 191 Proctor Road Linden	Inoperable
20	Ground	Lot 197 Proctor Road Linden	Inoperable
21	Ground	Lot 60 Accara Drive Linden	Inoperable
22	Ground	Lot 83 Accara Drive Linden	Inoperable
23	Ground	Lot 64 Accara Drive Linden	Inoperable
24	Ground	Lot 170 Gaskin Road Linden	Inoperable
25	Ground	Lot 106 Thomas Road Linden	Inoperable
26	Ground	Lot 73 Montgomery Oval Linden	Inoperable
27	Ground	Lot 30 Trewern Avenue Linden	Inoperable
28	Ground	Lot 64 Montgomery Oval Linden	Inoperable

29	Ground	Trewern Avenue and Topira Crescent Linden	Inoperable
30	Ground	Lot 19 Trewern Avenue Linden	Inoperable
31	Ground	Drill Square	Inoperable
32	Ground	Lot 135 Wisroc Housing Scheme Linden	Inoperable
33	Ground	Manni Street and Republic Avenue linden	inoperable
34	Ground	Lot 405 Dacama Circle Linden	Inoperable
35	Ground	Lot 777 Cedar Street Linden	Inoperable
36	Ground	Republic Avenue and Green Heart Street Linden	Inoperable
37	Ground	Lot 456 Bullet Wood Street Linden	Inoperable
38	Ground	Lot 821 Red Wood Crescent Linden	Inoperable
39	Ground	Lot 332 Red Wood Crescent Linden	Inoperable
40	Ground	Independence Avenue and Red Wood Crescent	Inoperable
41	Ground		Inoperable
42	Ground		Inoperable

Bartica

1	Ground	1st Avenue Between 2nd and 3rd Street Bartica	In Order
2	Ground	1st Avenue 4th Street Bartica	In Order
3	Ground	1st Avenue Between 6th and 7th Street Bartica	In Order
4	Ground	2nd Avenue, between 8th and 9th Street Bartica	In Order
5	Ground	Between 2nd and 3rd Avenue 5th streets Bartica	Inoprable
6	Ground	3rd Avenue Between 5th and 6th Street Bartica	In Order
7	Ground	7th Street Between 3rd and 4th Avenue Bartica	Inoprable
8	Ground	3rd Avenue 8th Street Bartica	Inoprable
9	Ground	3rd Avenue 9th Street Bartica	In Order
10	Ground	Between 4th and 5th Avenue Bartica	Inoprable
11	Ground	4th Avenue Between 3rd and 4th Street Bartica	In Order
12	Ground	4th Avenue 2nd Street Bartica	In Order
13	Ground	5th Avenue Between 4th and 5th Streets Bartica	Inoprable

14	Ground	Between 6th and 7th Avenue 4th Street Bartica	In Order
15	Ground	Between 6th and 7th Avenue 5th Street Bartica	In Order
16	Ground	6th Avenue 3rd Street Bartica	In Order
17	Ground	Between 6th and 7th Avenue 1st Street Bartica	In Order
18	Ground	7th Avenue Between 1st and 2nd Streets Bartica	In Order
19	Ground	Telecoms Hill	In Order
20	Ground	West Indian Housing Scheme Bartica	In Order
21	Ground	One Mile Junction Bartica	Inoprable
22	Ground	2nd Avenue 7th Street Bartica	In Order
23	Ground	1st Avenue 9th Street Bartica	In Order

Berbice

1	Pillar	Lot 60 Stanleytown Main Road	In Order
2	Pillar	Between 59 and 60 Stanleytown Main Road	In Order
3	Pillar	Lot 52 Stanleytown Main Road	In Order
4	Pillar	Lot 48 Stanleytown Main Road	In Order
5	Pillar	46 Stanleytown (Main Road)	In Order
6	Pillar	43 Stanleytown (Main Road)	In Order
7	Pillar	Between 40-41 Stanleytown (Main Road)	In Order
8	Pillar	30 Philadelphia (Main Road)	In Order
9	Pillar	Between Critchlow Street and Howard's Alley Main Road	In Order
10	Pillar	Between Harkman's Lane and Pilot Street (Main Road)	In Order
11	Pillar	Between Charles Place and Harkman's Lane Main Road	In Order
12	Pillar	Between Charles Place and Harkman's Lane (Main Road)	In Order
13	Pillar	Asylum Street (Main Road) in front of the church	In Order
14	Pillar	Lad Lane (Main Road)	In Order
15	Pillar	Coopers Lane (Main Road)	In Order
16	Pillar	Trinity Street (Main Road) in front of the Jewelry shop	In Order

17	Pillar	Church Street (Main Road) in front of Little Rock Suites	In Order
18	Pillar	St. Ann Street (Main Road)	In Order
19	Pillar	King Street (Main Road)	In Order
20	Pillar	In front of Prisons Farm (Main Road)	In Order
21	Pillar	In front of Magistrate Court (Vryheid Road)	In Order
22	Pillar	Western Side of Queenstown Road	In Order
23	Pillar	Western Side of Queenstown Road	In Order
24	pillar	Lot 42 Stanleytown (Strand)	In Order
25	pillar	Lot 30 Stanleytown (Strand)	In Order
26	Pillar	Alexander Street (Strand)	In Order
27	Pillar	St. Magdalene Street (Strand)	In Order
28	Pillar	Kent Street (Strand)	In Order
29	Pillar	Pope Street (Strand)	Inoperable
30	Pillar	New Street next to Republic Bank (Strand)	Inoperable
31	Pillar	Pitt Street (Strand)	Inoperable
32	Pillar	Chapel Street (Strand)	Inoperable
33	Pillar	St. Ann Street (Strand)	In Order
34	Pillar	Cheddi Jagan Street (Strand)	In Order
35	Pillar	Garrison Road (Strand)	In Order
36	Pillar	Lot 58 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	In Order
37	Pillar	Lot 56 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	In Order
38	Pillar	Lot 54 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	Inoperable
39	Pillar	Lot 48 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	In Order
40	Pillar	Lot 48 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	In Order
41	Pillar	Lot 42 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	Inoperable
42	Pillar	Lot 40 Stanleytown (Republic Road)	In Order
43	Pillar	Savannah Park (Republic Road)	In Order

44	Pillar	Howards Alley (Republic Road)	In Order
45	Pillar	Nicolay Street (Republic Road)	In Order
46	Pillar	Harkman's Lane (Republic Road)	In Order
47	Pillar	St. Magdalene Street (Republic Road)	In Order
48	Pillar	Lad Lane (Republic Road)	In Order
49	Pillar	Pitt Street (Republic Road)	In Order
50	Pillar	Between Trinity Street and Church Street (Republic Road)	In Order
51	Pillar	Shoe Lane (Republic Road)	In Order
52	pillar	St. Ann Street (Republic Road)	In Order
53	Pillar	Wapping Lane (Republic Road)	In Order
54	Pillar	Essex Street (Republic Road)	In Order
55	Pillar	Smythfield Junction (Republic Road)	In Order
56	Pillar	Vryheid Street (Republic Road)	In Order
57	Pillar	Vryheid Street (Republic Road)	In Order

Total=777

PRECAUTIONS OF OTHER RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Given that there was a fire on May 11, 2021 at the Brickdam Police Station, can the Minister say what precautions or other risk mitigation measures were taken in the wake of this fire, especially in the context of the fact that the government has claimed that it was an inmate who started the fire which destroyed the station?

Mr. Benn: Sand Buckets and Fire Extinguisher were distributed to the stations in the Region. SOPs were drafted and distributed to all stations on Fire Drills and Mobilisation Response Plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, Mr. Ramjattan, you have the floor.

Concerns About the Suspension of Mr. Sherod Duncan

Mr. Ramjattan: I just have a short observation. We, on this side of the House, would like to share our concerns with

what we regard as a deterioration of the debate that occurred yesterday and which reached a certain height that created problems for the House. We will strive, as best as possible, to ensure that there is maturity in the debate, and we would expect, or are urging, that we get that, also, from the Government's side. In relation to – and this is my final observation – the matter of the suspension of Mr. Sherod Duncan, we...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, I take your personal explanation with respect to the issue of the business of the House. With respect to the motion yesterday, let us first have some remarks, if you have some to make to me.

Mr. Ramjattan: I am making the observation that it happened in the Committee of Supply, rather than the larger National Assembly, where the suspension ought to have been. That is all.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

Suspension of Standing Order No. 54(1)(a)

BE IT RESOLVED:

“That Standing Order No. 54(1)(a) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its Sitting on Thursday, 10th February, 2022, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill 2022 – Bill No. 2/2022.”

[Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip]

Motion put and agreed to.

Standing Order suspended.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTION****MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana requires that Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly and that, when the Estimates of Expenditure have been approved by the Assembly, an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the financial year 2022 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on January 26, 2022, as summarised in the attached Schedule 1;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution requires that the expenditure of each of the Constitutional Agencies listed in the Third Schedule of the Constitution be financed as a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund determined as a lump sum by way of an annual subvention approved by the National Assembly after a review and approval of the Constitutional Agency's

annual budget as a part of the process of the determination of the national budget;

AND WHEREAS the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act, Cap. 73 :02, requires that the annual lump sum subvention recommended by the Minister with Responsibility for Finance for each Constitutional Agency be included in the annual budget proposal for approval by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Minister with Responsibility for Finance recommends lump sum subventions for each Constitutional Agency for the financial year 2022 as summarised in the attached Schedule 2;

AND WHEREAS the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021 provides that the amount that the Minister with Responsibility for Finance shall request the National Assembly to approve, and the amount that the National Assembly shall approve, as the withdrawal from the Fund for the next ensuing fiscal year shall be included in the annual budget proposal and shall not exceed, for that year, the ceiling calculated in accordance with the said Act:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2022, of a total sum of five hundred and one billion, six hundred and seventy-eight million, two hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$501,678,298,000) excluding fifty one billion, two hundred and fifty-five million, and four hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$51,255,420,000) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in Schedule 1, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly approves the recommended lump sum subvention for each Constitutional Agency for the financial year 2022 as stated in Schedule 2, amounting to a total sum of eleven billion, seven hundred and twenty-nine million, eight hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$11,729,840,000) which is charged upon the Consolidated Fund by the Constitution and for the

sums voted for the Constitutional Agencies to form part of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures of Guyana for the financial year 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the sum of \$126,694,310,000, equivalent to US \$607,646,570.98, to be withdrawn from the Natural Resource Fund for the financial year 2022 in accordance with the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021.

[Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the Assembly will resolve itself into Committee of Supply to continue consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for financial year 2022.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, I invite the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, and his team.

Agency: 47 Ministry of Health

Current Expenditure

Programme: 471 – Policy Development and Administration – \$2,222,296

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, Dr. Cummings, you have the floor.

Dr. Cummings: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be asking questions under Staffing Details for line items 6112, 6116, and 6117 in that order. Line item 6112 – Senior Technical: I have noticed that there is a remarkable decrease, from 37 to 12 staff members. That is 25. There is also a concomitant decrease of \$27 million. Could you explain, Cde. Minister, what the reason for this decrease is? Could you give me the top five persons of this category and their emoluments?

Minister of Health [Dr. Anthony]: Thank you, Hon. Member, for the question. At line item 6112, there is a decrease by 22. That accounts for people who have been moved from under this heading and placed under a different section of the Ministry. The persons who have moved are those persons who, previously, used to be from the Government Analyst-Food and Drug Department (GA-FDD). They have been moved from there and are now

placed under programme five. In terms of the emoluments, there is an Analytical Scientific Officer, and that person receives \$272,700; there is a Systems Development Coordinator, and that person's salary is \$243,000; there is a Health Economist, and that person's salary is \$235,000; there is a Drug Inspector at \$182,000; and another Economist at \$163,000.

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: This has also decreased from 72 to 51, and there is an increase of \$21 million, the inverse here, from \$202,855,000. Similarly, could you give me the top five persons and their emoluments?

Dr. Anthony: Again, Mr. Chairman, there is a decrease here of 21. That is due to 13 persons not renewing their contracts, three resignations, one person being transferred to another programme, and four terminations. That accounts for the difference.

Dr. Cummings: I have two questions, Hon. Minister. Is there a policy that persons should be on the fixed system? Are you trying to encourage persons to be on the fixed establishment rather than be contracted employees? Is there a policy or has the policy been abandoned?

Secondly, in the other project code under capital expenditure, you made mention, even in your speech, of new regional hospitals in Tuschen and others. These are new ones you will be setting up. Will the staff come from here or from the regions? Will you have staff coming from here? These are new ones – new areas – so where will you have the staff to furnish these new areas?

Dr. Anthony: The Ministry now has a policy where persons can choose whether to be on the fixed establishment or to be contracted employees. That option has been given to everyone, and there are persons who have opted to come off from the fixed establishment and become contracted employees, and there is the *vice versa*. We have given people that option. I think that for some categories of persons, they prefer to be on the contracted establishment, and that is because they can get, every six months, a gratuity of 22 ½%. It is optional. People have that choice, and we have been facilitating that.

In terms of how we are preparing the new infrastructure that we are bringing in place and the staffing, when those hospitals come online, we have already started working on where we are going to be accessing doctors, nurses, and

other persons who would be required, but it is not under this heading. As you would appreciate, we have had to increase training for these categories of persons. Also, in the interim, one of the things we would be looking at is getting assistance from some of our traditional partners, like Cuba, where we have bringing in medical specialists to work to fill some of the gaps that we have. We will be working with partners to make sure that we can have these hospitals, when they are up and running, suitably staffed. In addition to that, we do have a lot of persons who are at the Guyana Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). While they have been trained, the requirement is that some of these persons should be deployed at two regional hospitals. And so, we are also in the process of making sure that persons who have completed their training would now be able to go out to these regional hospitals to give service in the specialised areas.

11.19 a.m.

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6224 – Print and Non-Print Materials: I notice there is an increase of approximately \$3 million. In this Coronavirus disease (COVID- 19) environment where you have more virtual presentations and so on, why would you have an increase for print and non-print?

Dr. Anthony: I think the increase is a very modest increase. It is about \$2.2 million. The breakdown under this line item I s: we have allocated \$1.2 million for the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) office, the CMO, the Minister's office, the Permanent Secretary's (PS) office, and the Chief Nursing Officer for various things like letterheads and memorandum pads and so forth. Then there is \$5.8 million that would go to print requisition vouchers and also to print the forms that are required for the logistic management information system. There is \$4.9 million that has been allocated to transport forms. These are forms that people need to fill up when they travel and so forth and some other types of documentation that is required. There is \$0.88 million that is for equipment loan forms. So, if a department borrows another piece of equipment from some other department, they have to fill up these forms. There are special forms that are available for that, and we have to print them. There is \$1.3 million that is allocated to printing things like payroll slips, payment for travelling and revenue subsistence voucher and things like that. There is another \$2.5 million is for forms relating to things like virement, annual budgets and then there is \$2.3 million that is allocated for the payment of value-added tax (VAT).

Dr. Cummings: Under line item 6294 – Other, what constitutes 'Other' here? Could you explain and let us know?

Dr. Anthony: For this one, we actually have a big increase here. We have a \$399 million increase under this heading. We now have \$863 million to be used under this heading. What we are doing here, Mr. Chairman...this is a programme where we provide assistance to patients who need such assistance. This year, we have projected to spend \$400 million for patients who need cardiac interventions. We have projected to spend \$60 million for persons who need computerized tomography scan (CT) Scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs), and under this heading we have projected \$180 million to give dialysis patients \$600,000 per annum.

We have also put under this heading another \$70 million to assist persons who need radiation. So, there are people who will need brachytherapy and other forms of radiation therapy. We have allocated \$18 million here for crossmatching. These are patients who are going to get renal transplants, but to do so, we need to crossmatch them to make sure they are compatible with the donor. We have allocated \$18 million for that.

We have allocated \$20 million for eyecare patients – people who would need specialised operations of the eye. We have also allocated \$12 million for patients who would need prosthetics. Whether they would need a hand or foot, we have an allocation here for those patients. There is another \$103 million for patients who would need help for other illnesses, and these are mainly patients that we will send overseas. This heading has been very beneficial to a lot of people, and in 2021, we were able to help, with the allocations that we were given, 1,538 persons, and this amount is expected to grow during this year.

Dr. Cummings: Thank you very much for that information. It is commendable and I am happy that you have increased it. There are still people who are vulnerable and poor. Last question under this section. With regard to Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations, I have noticed that the subvention for the President's Commission on Noncommunicable Diseases comes under this section of Policy Development and Administration. Since you developed a new section or area, the eight section, on noncommunicable disease itself, would you not want to put the subvention for the President's Commission under that

section or would you let it remain under Policy Development and Administration in terms of subsidies?

Dr. Anthony: Indeed, we have allocated about \$8.2 million to the Presidential Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases. This Commission is a broad-based Commission where there are stakeholders from different segments of society. We have done that because of the importance of chronic noncommunicable disease. It is not a health problem; it is a societal problem. Therefore, we need to have this broad-based consultation and getting people involved in understanding these types of diseases, and what we need to do to prevent them, and if people get them, how to treat them.

The Commission helps in many ways to set a policy and tender advice and that is why they are getting this kind of subvention from us. Indeed, you are correct in that we have created, as of last year, a new programme, which is the eighth programme in the Ministry, because of the importance of chronic noncommunicable diseases. We are going to work to expand that programme, and over the next couple of years, you would see different items that would appear there which would focus more on chronic noncommunicable disease. At that point, maybe we will see whether it might be more appropriately placed under that particular heading.

Dr. Cummings: I just want to remind the Hon. Minister that the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) had resuscitated that programme. Thank you.

Programme: 471 – Policy Development and Administration – \$2,222,296,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 471 – Policy Development and Administration – \$334,168,000

Dr. Cummings: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hon. Minister, project code 1216200 – Ministry of Health - Buildings: I know there is a new building just obliquely opposite your office. Is it going to be completed this year? Is the sum of \$273,168,000 enough to complete it? Could you give us the due date, if there is a date, if this is adequate and what else needs to be done?

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Before you go, Hon. Minister, I did leave out that it is the capital expenditure under that head we are putting. Hon. Minister, go ahead.

Dr. Anthony: As you know, this has been a longstanding project, and I think it would have gone over budget. As you rightly said, in the last programme, which we dealt with under the current programme, this was one of the APNU/AFC's projects. It went beyond the budget, and we are now trying to fix it and to correct some of the defects that were there. You would also recall that, last year, we had to terminate the contractors who were on the job, because they were not fulfilling their contractual mandate. We have fixed those problems, and now we have an allocation of \$259 million to complete this project during this year. We expect that by mid of this year, it should be completed. Right now, it is on schedule, based on the timelines that we have set with the contractor, and there is another \$13 million that has been allocated for the supervising firm to make sure that this project is completed on time.

Programme: 471 – Policy Development and Administration – \$334,168,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 472 – Disease Control – Communicable Diseases – \$6,254,716,000

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6284 – Other: There is an increase from \$27,936,000 to \$42,336,000. What is the reason for that increase and what constitutes this line item?

11.34 a.m.

Dr. Anthony: There is an increase of approximately \$14.4 million and that is because we have, under this head, absorbed a number of cleaners that we have at the infectious disease hospital at 'Ocean View', so that we could provide cleaning services there. That \$14.4 million increase would be used for cleaning services at the 'Ocean View' hospital.

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6221 – Drugs and Medical Supplies: I noticed that there is a decrease in this amount from \$7 billion to \$4 billion. Could the Hon. Minister tell us why there is a decrease since the communicable disease and Coronavirus (COVID-19) hospital comes under the aegis of the programme? What is the reason for the decrease in drugs and medical supplies?

Dr. Anthony: If you look at the original budget for last year you will see that the budgeted sum is about \$3.9 billion. What we have here, \$4.1 billion, is actually an increase over that budgeted sum. The reason it is showing as \$7.1 billion is

because you would recall that we came to this House to ask for supplementary, and that supplementary is included in this actual amount. The \$4.1 billion that we currently have in the 2022 Budget is going to be adequate to the medication and supplies that we need to buy for this year.

Dr. Cummings: I noticed that you also have supplies in the capital expenditure. Are you straddling both current and capital? We have not yet reached capital, but I notice that you made arrangements to have more money for the COVID-19 hospital under capital expenditure. I guess you will tell me the things you would purchase under this line item. When you are finished, I have another question.

Dr. Anthony: Under this head, and throughout the different programmes, you would see it occurring as medicines and medical supplies. In some cases, we could divide that, or we could put some part of it, to buy things like reagents which would be considered as medical supplies. For this particular head, the things that we are buying here for the \$4.19 billion include an allocation of approximately \$1.1 billion, which would be going to the 'Ocean View' hospital. This would be for the things needed for the patients who are going to be admitted there. Those things include oxygen and medicines and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) and everything else that is needed over there.

We also made an allocation of \$931 million which is going to the National Aids Programme Secretariat (NAPS). In this particular programme, we are switching out some of the older Antiretroviral Drug Optimization (ARV's) which we were using, and we have a new algorithm that we would be using now for our patients. This involves newer drugs, and they are a little bit more costly. We have allocated \$931 million for that particular expenditure.

We have also allocated \$776 million for laboratories, the National Public Health Reference Laboratory. As you could imagine, a substantial part of this will be to purchase the reagents needed for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing. We have also allocated \$523 million for the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HECO), which is the coordinating unit for the COVID-19 response. We have allocated another \$328 million for the development of a malaria laboratory, and a number of things relating to malaria and some of the other neglected infections. There is a \$208 million which has been allocated to tuberculosis (TB).

There is \$173 million which has been allocated to Hansen's Disease elimination. We have a \$69 million for filariasis and leishmaniasis drugs. While we have done the mass drug administration for filariasis, we have to now do validations. We are in that process and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) will be coming in to do the validation. That is why there is an allocation there to do those validation exercises. We have also allocated \$30 million for medicines for dengue, and \$16 million for veterinary public health, and a small sum of less than one million dollars for port health.

Dr. Cummings: Thank you for that comprehensive breakdown, but I have not seen the new pills, if that is that is the way you want to go. I think I heard you mention that for COVID-19 – Paxlovid and the other new drugs. Were they included here?

Dr. Anthony: The sum that we have allocated for the COVID-19 infectious disease hospital would include not just oxygen, but item such as the medication that we are using there. Currently, we are using remdesivir and we are using Baricitinib. Our intention is to procure Paxlovid once it becomes available on the market. Unfortunately, the supply is quite limited, and a lot of that is being used in the United States of America (USA) and some of the European countries, so access to it is quite limited. We have also been trying to source the Merck drug, Molnupiravir, and we have made some headways with that. Recently, about a week or two weeks ago, a local company registered Molnupiravir in Guyana and, hopefully, they would be able to supply that particular drug. Once these things become available, we would try to source them for our patients. We have been monitoring to see how we could get access to them. In addition to that, we have set aside, not under this Programme, adequate resources to make sure that we could buy the vaccines for the 5-11 age group when we could get access to them.

Dr. Cummings: Before I leave this Programme, I just want to ask you, going back to the COVID-19 hospital, if you have paid off the owner for the building. Could you bring us up to speed on what is happening with that institution in terms of the arrangement there?

Dr. Anthony: I think those matters are best dealt with the Attorney General's (AG) Chambers. Under this head, we are not catering for any such payments. We are dealing with current expenditures.

Mr. Figueira: Line item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships): Minister, I am seeing an allocation here of more than \$67 million. Could you indicate what type of training would be offered and how many persons are likely to benefit from this opportunity which is being provided?

Dr. Anthony: We would be spending \$67.9 million on various types of training. All of these trainings would be done in house. This means, it will be done by various departments of the Ministry. So, we have allocated \$15.5 million to the National Aids Programme Secretariat to conduct training. As I just explained to the Hon. Member, Dr. Cummings, we are changing our ARV, the antiretrovirals, which we are using, and we are changing the algorithms that we are using. This would require that we train the doctors to use the new algorithm. In addition to that, we are also training persons to do PrEP, that is pre-exposure prophylaxis. This is the new way of preventing Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections. We want to make sure that most of our primary care doctors are able to do PrEP and post-exposure-prophylaxis (PEP), so that if someone was exposed to HIV, they could get treatment readily. Some of the things that are in here for NAPS... these are the types of trainings that we would be doing. Included in that training, we have started rolling out self-testing. If someone believes that they are HIV positive, instead of coming to one of the clinics to get tested, they could get a home kit and test themselves at home. Again, the people who would be making these kits available and then talking to some of these patients, having tested to come into the clinic, we have to be able to train them to explain to people how to use these kits. That is \$15.5 million for NAPS.

We also have \$9.2 million allocated for malaria. Again, there are a couple of things that we are doing here. One is that we have to train people how to read the malaria slides. We would normally go on a round of training every year to the areas where we have the most malaria, which is Region 1, Region 7, Region 8 and Region 9. There are parts of Region 10 as well where we have seen malaria cases. We have trained people how to do microscopy, and we have a protocol of how that training is done. This year, we would also be rolling out rapid diagnostic tests for malaria. We bought 100,000 of those kits, and we would be distributing them to the different areas. Again, we would have to teach people how to do these things. That is for malaria.

We have also set aside \$606 million for epidemiology. This is training people how to track diseases and understand the dynamics of diseases. Again, a lot of the people who we have in the field, we had to teach them the kind of data and the type of information that they need to collect, and how clean that information and send it up to the central unit. We have set aside \$5.9 million to train healthcare workers on diagnosing and treating dengue, because this remains a burden in our country. We have set aside \$5.3 million for surveillance, especially surveillance dealing with COVID-19. Again, this is in all the regions of the country.

We have set aside \$4.8 million for tuberculosis (TB) training. One of the challenges that we do have with TB is the non-compliance of some of the patients because they have to be on medication sometimes more than a year, and, because of that, people are not compliant. In this line item, we are training Directly Observed Therapy (DOT's) workers. Those are people who would go out in the field and directly observe that the people are taking their medications. We have set aside moneys here to look for patients that would exhibit drug resistance. That is important because, if we have too many of these patients, we could have challenges with the medications that are currently available, globally. We have to monitor for drug resistance.

11.49 p.m.

We also have a \$4.4 million for filaria. While we have a very robust programme, we still have to do the training to check to make sure that we have, in fact, eliminated filaria from Guyana. We have another \$3.9 million set aside for entomology training. This has to do with the types of mosquitoes that we have in Guyana. We have to look for the different types to determine their breeding patterns, the way they could infect people and so forth. This money would be spent in that direction. We have a number of programmes that we introduced last year. We started a programme where we are sterilising the insects and then releasing them back into the population. By doing that, it would collapse the population. This means that we would have fewer mosquitoes. This is a collaboration that we have with the International Atomic Energy Agency. We started that pilot last year and we will continue this year.

We have another \$3.4 million for port health. Again, we would need to screen people coming into the country. We need to make sure that we are tracking them and collecting and tabulating that information. We have set aside moneys

for that. This is basically some of the things and the types of training that we will be doing. It is inclusive of some training that we would be having, both for Veterinary Public Health because we have to inspect all the meat and fish and everything that this country exports and a \$1.5 million for the National Public Health Reference Laboratory. This is to update people's skills at the reference laboratory.

Programme: 472 – Disease Control - Communicable Diseases – \$6,254,716,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 472 – Disease Control - Communicable Diseases – \$2,270,452,000

Dr. Cummings: I will be asking two questions on this area, land and water and the Covid-19 Response Programme. Project code 2405600 – Land and Water Transport: I notice that there is a purchase of a vehicle. Could you give us the specifications? I know this programme would be using it. What would it be used for? How many vehicles will be purchased; is it one vehicle?

Dr. Anthony: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Hon. Member. This here is to buy a minibus. That minibus would be used for the entomology department so that they could go out and do the work to find the Aedes mosquitoes or the other types of mosquitoes. That is what it would be used for.

Dr. Cummings: Project code 4405200 – Covid-19 Response Programme: “Provision for COVID response initiatives – IDA”. What are some of the projected responses under this capital project?

Dr. Anthony: This allocation is for \$1.1 billion or \$1 billion. The first thing that we have here is an allocation of \$121 million to do some additional works at the COVID-19 hospital or the ‘Ocean View’ hospital. Those works that we would have would include the establishment of a surgical theatre. That is because some of the COVID-19 patients that we do have, from time to time, would have surgical emergencies. Rather than have them there and they have a surgical emergency and we have to move them to the Georgetown Public Hospital to be able to operate, what we are doing is establishing a surgical theatre there which will be used for a wide range surgical intervention. We will be spending some money doing that.

We have also been working to make sure that each of the beds that we have there have piped oxygen instead of having the bottles next to the bed. We started that project last year. This year we are going to complete it. That would cater for piped oxygen for each of the 195 beds that we have there. We have also set aside some moneys to build a base for the oxygen plant. We have had a donation of an oxygen plant. Unfortunately, it has not arrived yet because we are having challenges with the shipment of the plant and it coming to Guyana. This has been a donation from one of the humanitarian organisations. They have the plant; they have packaged it and it is going to come to Guyana. It was delayed because of the difficulties we are having with global shipment.

In addition to that, we have a number of equipment that we would be buying for the hospital. This includes things like, for the surgical theatre, an anaesthetic machine. We needed some additional refrigerators. There are a whole host of equipment that we need to buy and that is included here. It includes cardiac monitors and delivery beds. We are buying a dialysis machine. Again, from time to time, we do have patients who come into the hospital who require dialysis. Right now, we are providing dialysis services to those patients, but we are renting the machine. This year we are making an allocation to buy the machine so that we could have that service continued. There is a whole long list here. I could go through them if you want. That is what the money will be spent on.

Ms. Sarabo-Halley: The Hon. Minister indicated a lot of what they are doing under the same programme 4405200 in terms of the COVID-19 response. What I noted is that most of it had to do with the hospital. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if any of this would be going to preventative measures as opposed to when somebody ends up in the hospital?

Dr. Anthony: Indeed, the Hon. Member is correct. Most of this allocation is going to the infectious disease hospital. We have other sections of the budget where we are spending moneys to acquire PPE and other things which are necessary for prevention. It is not under this head, but we do have some allocations to make sure that we have enough PPE and other things that are required for prevention.

Programme: 472 – Disease Control - Communicable Diseases – \$2,270,452,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Current Expenditure

Programme: 473 – Family and Primary Health Care Services – \$4,595,464,000

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: What we have been seeing previously is a decrease in this area, but here we are seeing a increase from 10 to 131. In terms of the allocation, \$48,481,000 to \$203,000,000. This is really remarkable. From 10 employees in 2021 to now 131. This is very interesting. Could the Hon. Minister shed some light on this massive increase and the top five persons who are in this category and their emoluments?

Dr. Anthony: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you very much, Hon. Member. The persons who we have under this category are really those persons who we have recruited to assist us with Covid-19 vaccinations. They include about 44 clerical staff and 55 nurses who we have hired to be able to do the vaccination programme. There are some other categories of people who we have brought on here. That accounts for that big increase that you have seen under that line item.

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6265 – Other Transport, Travel and Postage: The allocation has moved from almost \$33 million to \$60 million. Could you shed some light on this increase in this category?

Dr. Anthony: We have allocated \$60 million. Again, as the Hon. Member would appreciate, we have to continue our COVID-19 vaccination programme. This caters for the transport of vaccines. We will be sending at least \$20 million in air freights in order to send them to the different regions. We also have to hire buses to be able to take staff and vaccines out to different locations especially, when, outside of the regular health centres, we go into some of the areas/villages and so forth, we need to hire extra transportation. We have set a notional sum of about \$22 million to do that. We also have to transport sum of the refrigerators that we bought. In some cases, the vaccines that we are using require -20 temperature. We bought some of those refrigerators and we are buying some more this year. We are putting them strategically in different regions. To move those refrigerators, it is quite costly because some of these things cannot be flown into the regions because of the chemicals they have. We have to take them over land. We have allocated \$18 million to make sure that we could transport these refrigerators.

12.04 p.m.

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6294 – Other: I have noticed that, from a single digit of \$6 million, this has multiplied by almost 10 times to \$57,483,000. What constitutes ‘Other’ in this category under this line item?

Dr. Anthony: We have had a substantial increase under this line item because we will be spending approximately \$50 million in collaboration with the Frist Lady’s Menstrual Hygiene Initiative. This is where young girls who need menstrual hygiene products would be able to access such products. Rather than have it as an *ad hoc* programme, we have included it so that we can budget for it and make sure that persons who require these types of services be able to get the services.

Mr. Figueira: Line item 6291 – National and Other Events: There is a sum of \$25 million here. Could you say, under this line item, what are the national events that will be catering for?

Dr. Anthony: I want to thank the Hon. Member. In health, we have certain health days that want to raise awareness. Some of those include spending on vaccination week. We have an expanded programme of immunisation. During that week, we do a lot of awareness. We will be spending about \$12.8 million on that. We want to make women more aware of the maternal and child health services that we have. We will be spending about \$1 million on that.

Under the Food Policy Division of the Ministry, we want to encourage persons to eat the right things. We have about a \$2 million expenditure where we will go out and do things like cookouts to show persons how to cook in the right manner, *et cetera*. Under environmental health, we have an allocation there where about \$700,000 would be spent to highlight the importance of some of the environmental issues that we want people to understand.

Under adolescent health, we will be working with young people to make sure that they can get a handle on some of the key issues such as teenage pregnancy, *et cetera*. We will be spending \$2.1 million on that. Under men’s health, again, I spoke briefly on the issue of prostate cancer being the number cancer amongst men. Men, generally, do not like to see doctors. We want to encourage more men to be able to come and get regular medical check-ups. This sum of money would help us to do some of that kind of highlighting and raising awareness.

We have also set aside \$1 million for the elderly. There are specific times during the year when we will do those types of activities for the elderly. We have an allocation of \$3.2 million to promote women's health. This is how the sums of money allocated here would be spent.

Mr. Figueira: Follow-up: Hon. Minister, listening to your explanation I think it is a good initiative, but I wonder if the allocation is sufficient. If we are to do this programme throughout Guyana, for example \$2 million to bring awareness to prostate cancer which you just spoke about, is this indeed sufficient? Is it just going to be centralised, or is it the intent for it to be disseminated in the other regions?

While I am on the floor, I would like to add another question so that you could answer both. Under line item 6302, Training (including Scholarships), could you give some indication as to what training would be done under this line item, and how many persons it is likely to provide the opportunity to be trained?

Dr. Anthony: The Member asked a very valid question, but he would also appreciate that, in this year's budget, we are getting \$25 million which is an increase of almost double. Last year it was \$12 million, now we are getting \$25 million. I think as we expand these programmes, and we go out to different communities, we would increase these allocations. What we tend to do is that, when the staff of the Ministry are going out, they go as teams so we can *piggyback* and do different things at the same time. That is how we intend to spend this money. With the types of training that we are doing, we want to make almost every health facility, whether health post or health centre, an area where a lot of this type of health promotion can happen. When one comes in, apart from coming for services, the staff there must be able to explain some of these things to people in a way that they can understand and, also, to help them to take action. That is the intention.

Under this head, we have allocated \$90 million for training. A lot of this will be in-house types of training which would be done. We have \$49 million for a maternal and child health expanded programme of immunisation. We do about 19 antigens for children, meaning vaccinations that we give to children. Every year we have to train persons and upgrade their skills, *et cetera*. That is what this money is going to be used for. In addition to that, we have a section in the Ministry that deals with dental health. We have allocated \$7 million to train different categories of health workers to

promote dental health. Apart from the dentexes and the Dentists, *et cetera*, whom we have, we are trying to introduce some of these programmes at the health centre and the health post level so that they could also help us with the promotion.

Under food policy, we will be doing training. We will be going out to do a training. There is an allocation of \$9 million for them. For adolescent health, we have \$6.9 million; for environmental health, \$5 million is allocated; for women's health, there is \$5 million; for men's health, there is \$3.1 million; for health promotion, \$2.3 million is allocated; and for health of the elderly, \$2 million is allocated. These are sums that have been allocated and the training varies. That is what this head would be used for.

Programme: 473 – Family and Primary Health Care Services – \$4,595,464,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 473 – Family and Primary Health Care Services – \$568,645,000

Dr. Cummings: Project code 4403200 – Maternal and Child Health Improvement: I am seeing the sum of \$446,660,000 for: "Provision for equipment – IDB". Could the Hon. Minister state what this equipment is? Is it for contraceptives, intravenous, *et cetera*? Could you explain and state what this project entails?

Dr. Anthony: Thank you, Hon. Member. As you know, this is a programme funded by the IDB. Under this programme, we are working in Regions 3, 4 and 9. Part of this programme is to make sure that the health centres have enough equipment to be able to deliver a higher quality of service. This allocation is to make sure that we procure that equipment and make it available to the health centres. It ranges from things like boards, scales and all these things that are required at these health centres.

Dr. Cummings: I want to ask the Hon. Member, if the last used contraceptive, the one that we were trained for and given from other countries, in terms of contraceptive use, whether that is still on board.

Dr. Anthony: We are continuing that programme to make sure that people can understand more about contraceptives, *et cetera*. It is not under this head. I think we have passed it, but we have allocated \$154 million to procure contraceptives

of different types. We are making sure that we have adequate amounts of money to be able to provide that service.

Programme: 473 – Family and Primary Health Care Services – \$568,645,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 474 – Regional and Clinical Services – \$21,943,352,000

Dr. Cummings: Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: It has moved from 537 to 642. I notice there is a decrease in the sum allocated. Could you explain the inverse relationship here?

Dr. Anthony: There is an increase in contracted employees. If I can ask the Hon. Member to go to a document that was circulated yesterday. In that document you will see there is a correction. I think when the information was submitted to the Ministry of Finance, we were asked, in August, to submit the information relating to staffing. It was supposed to be updated in December. Instead of using the more current figure, inadvertently, the August numbers were used. That is why, yesterday, a correction was circulated. If you go to the Contracted Employees, what you would notice is that, in 2021, we had 537 and that has now increased to 610.

12.19 p.m.

Ms. Sarabo-Halley: Line item 6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations: I see there is \$13 billion that I believe goes to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation. I know it is an increase, but given all that has happened over the last year and the intention, I believe, of the Hon. Minister to develop health in this particular arena, the fact that we are still looking at more regional hospitals elsewhere, and that most of the country goes to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, is this increase sufficient for everything that the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation has to do and should be increasing in this particular year?

Dr. Anthony: This shows an increase of about \$1.7 billion from last year to now. Based on the work that we want to do at the Hospital, I think this is adequate. In addition to that, as we improve the services at our regional hospitals, we will be able to decant some of the services that people would normally come for at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation. We are hoping that less persons would come to

the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, and we would be able to provide the services in the regional hospitals.

More and more we are repurposing the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation to be able to do more specialised kinds of services. Last year, as you would recall, the Festival City Polyclinic came into operation. This year we have allocated additional sums of money to make sure that the Polyclinic is fully functional. That will include having a diagnostic capability, laboratory capability, denial capability, and so forth. It will be able to house approximately 14 doctors along with about two Dentists. In a big way that is going to take a lot of the outpatients, who currently come to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, and they would be able to access services closer to where they live. That is the whole purpose. A lot of the things that we are doing now is so that that those nonurgent persons will be able to access services closer to where they are living.

Dr. Cummings: Through the Chairman, I hope that ophthalmology is also included in that list because that is nonurgent, unless there is a surgery being done. Line item 6284, Other: I have noticed that there is an increase from about \$111 million to \$125 million here. What are some of constituents of this line item?

Dr. Anthony: I am sure that the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation would make the relevant arrangements so that ophthalmology could be provided. I do not think that is much of a difficulty. In terms of this particular line item 6284, Other, we have an increase of \$14 million, but the actual sum that is being allocated is \$125.5 million. We will be using \$120 million for the Cuban medical brigade. As you know we have a large contingent of Cuban doctors, nurses, and Physiotherapists who are currently here. In fact, I think we have close to 80 doctors, nurses, and Physiotherapists who are working at the infectious diseases hospital. This sum of money would be going to make sure that we are able to bring them, take them back, and provide all of the allowances and so forth that we have to pay. In addition to that, we have allocated \$2.6 million to the Linden Hospital Complex and \$2 million to Kwakwani. This is for various expenditures that they would incur at these hospitals.

Ms. Sarabo-Halley: The same line item 6321, Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations: I am looking at Appendix T that deals with the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, and it states that the employment cost is \$7 billion. I am not questioning that at all. I was just wondering

whether the Hon. Minister could indicate the doctor/patient ratio and the nurse/patient ratio to see whether or not the number of staff employed is adequate or if they intend to increase the staff at that hospital.

Dr. Anthony: I do not have the exact numbers with me here. However, I am told, because of the post-graduate programmes and so on that we have for the doctors, we do have an adequate complement of doctors, whether they are consultants, registrars or General Medical Officers (GMOs). We do have an adequate complement. Where I think there are some difficulties is with the number of nurses that we have. It is not only at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, but we need to look across the system as well. The only place where we have nurses in excess is really in the Linden Hospital Complex. One of the things that we would be doing is expanding some of the nursing programmes. In future years, what we are hoping to do is a larger programme to be able to train more nurses and, also, to offer specialised nursing programmes because, as you would recognise, in some of the departments it is not just about having regular nursing, we need to have the specialisation. Some of these changes we will be able to do.

For nurses to actually get upward mobility now, they have to complete midwifery training. Sometimes, if they are not in that field, why is it necessary that they must complete that for them to get upward mobility? Some of these pathways we are working on changing and, hopefully, we would be able to do some of that by the end of the year. We also have an additional problem and that is there is active recruitment of nurses from Guyana. We have been losing nurses because of this active recruitment. We are looking at various ways that we could slow that down. I do not think we might be able to ever stop it but, at least, we have to slow it down and then be able to produce more nurses that we need for the facilities and so forth.

Ms. Sarabo-Halley: I think the Hon. Minister almost pre-empted my next question. In terms of the nurses, as you did highlight, we are losing nurses. The reality is that we train, not only for Guyana but the region and the world at large. My question to you then is, what exactly is the system that you plan to put in place to ensure our nurses feel comfortable enough to stay and not leave the shores?

Dr. Anthony: There are many things that could be put in place. First of all, if we look at how many nurses we are able to graduate, that number is relatively small. In terms of

training more people to fill the gaps that we have, that is something that we will be addressing. Then, of course, we have to address retention that is a much bigger problem – that is to compete with the salaries that are being paid in the United Kingdom (UK), which is a very tall order. What is happening now is that when a nurse is offered a job, let us say in the UK, that offer is not only for the nurse to go to the UK but for the entire family to accompany the nurse. These are the dynamics that we have, and we will have to work to see how we can slow it down or address it. It is a big challenge. That pull factor is a big challenge. We are working on it. I would not say that we have perfect solutions, but we have to work on addressing some of these things.

One study that was done many years in the Ministry, when nurses were interviewed and asked what would be some of the non-monetary incentives that they would like to see put in place, there was a list of things that came up, including for the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, to set up a day care because many of nurses have small kids and they want to have a place, when they have a break, to go to see their children and so forth. That is something that we are going to work on to make sure that we put it in place. I know the hospital had made arrangements to do that, so this year we are going to work on that. There are other non-monetary incentives that we could put in place, and we are actively considering some of those incentives. Other than that, as you would know, having served as a Minister of the public service, to increase salaries would require a lot more detail and study to see how that could be done.

Mr. Figueira: A follow-up on that same nursing issue that you just raised, Hon. Minister. I do not know if I am clear, I stand corrected. I think I heard you say that Linden has a lot of nurses. But Linden also has an exodus of a lot of the nurses with respect to what you just mentioned about going to the UK – over 50 nurses. That is an issue that is plaguing the community. Is it the Ministry's intention to extend the number of intakes into the region because we are not training nurses to serve Region 10, but to service Guyana? Would that be a consideration to address the exodus of nurses, particularly from our region that has seen the largest exodus of trained nurses?

Dr. Anthony: Thank you very much for that question, Hon. Member. The last time I checked, which is maybe about a month or two ago, I think, in Linden, we had about 250 more nurses than is required for the services that we provide in Linden. We have been encouraging some of those nurses,

and we do provide some incentives for some of them to come and work with us in other locations. Some of them have done that. We have been moving some of them around internally and that is going to continue. That is one.

Two, in terms of increasing the intake, that is something that we are actively looking at. Our intention over the next few years is to have a much larger intake. This year we are going to start to review the curriculum of nursing. We have a specialised team that is going to come in to work with us to review the curriculum, reorganising the nursing programmes for us. There are a lot of other things that would happen. Hopefully, once we complete that, we would then be able to train many more persons so that we could, at least, try to fill some of the gaps that are being created with persons migrating. It is a constant struggle. This did not start yesterday. This has been around for quite a long time. We have always been grappling with this problem. We have to figure out how to deal with it. One way is certainly to increase the number of nurses that we are currently producing.

12.34 p.m.

Mr. Figueira: My last question on this. Hon. Minister, I believe you are aware of the conundrum that exists in Linden with respect to the employ of nurses. We have nurses from the Ministry of Health, we have nurses from the RDC. What is your plan to bring all of the nurses under one umbrella? Some of the nurses have articulated the view that some of the benefits of being a nurse under the Ministry of Health they are not getting because they come under the RDC and some from another arm. We need to address this. Efforts were being put by the previous Administration to correct it, but it was not finalised. First, are you aware of it? If you are, what are your plans to bring all of the nurses under one umbrella? Moreso, what is the projected timeframe in getting this done?

Dr. Anthony: That has been a very long-standing problem. That is because the Linden Hospital and the Wismar Hospital were once managed by the bauxite company. When bauxite changed from private hands to Government hands, more or less, some of these services were handed over to the Ministry of Health. The salaries that were paid in the private sector, at the time the Mackenzie Hospital and the Wismar Hospital, were much higher than what was in the regional health services. The decision at that time was to pay that higher salary to the people who were working there. When

they were absorbed into the health system, they continued to enjoy that higher salary. That has been maintained over the years. Indeed, there would be a disparity in terms of those who were employed by the Region and those who were in the hospital setting. That is something we will have to work to see how we could narrow that gap. It is something we had looked at and we will continue to work on different mechanism to narrow them. I cannot stand here and give you an answer right now. I know that there have been several attempts to try to deal with this issue because it still persists; I do not think anyone has succeeded as yet. It is something that we have to work on.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Figueira, before you put the question, we have just three minutes remaining on this line item.

Mr. Figueira: Lastly, given the fact that all of those nurses are trained under the Charles Roza School of Nursing (CRSN), when they are finished training they are disseminated either to the Ministry of Health, the RDC, or the Linden Hospital Complex. The Government pays for the services of CRSN. Then, should the benefits, until the problem is addressed, be at least given across the board to all of the nurses including, more specifically, risk allowance? Some are getting, some are not getting, and the nurses are of the view that all should get. I, myself.

Dr. Anthony: When we think about risk allowance, we also have to look at what types of exposures people would have. If you are working in a community setting, if you are working at a health centre or a health post, that risk is far different from if you are working in a hospital setting. Therefore, because of those differences, that is why some nurses would probably enjoy risk allowance in an institutionalised setting versus those that are in community setting. That is one of the reasons why there is that difference. That is not a now story; that has been going on for a long time. That is the policy of the various governments. We could review, we could look at how these things could be adjusted, but it would take some time to do those reviews.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, we have a minute remaining for the agency actually, not the line item.

Mr. Figueira: I agree with the view that you just made mention of about clinics and so forth. This particular issue, as I indicated earlier, where the conundrum lies at the hospital in itself, the Ministry of Health workers, the hospital

nurses, as well as the RDC workers are working in the same space. That is why the conflict of who is getting this and who is not getting that also arises, but I understand the issue.

Dr. Anthony: I just want to say to the Hon. Member that we are willing to understand the problem and try to work to fix it. I think that is what is important.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, I will now put all of the remaining programmes that exists under this agency.

Programme: 474 – Regional and Clinical Services – \$21,943,352,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 475 – Health Sciences Education – \$734,513,000

Programme: 475 – Health Sciences Education – \$734,513,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 476 – Standards and Technical Services – \$1,550,086,000

Programme: 476 – Standards and Technical Services – \$1,550,086,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 477 – Disability and Rehabilitation Services – \$629,540,000

Programme: 477 – Disability and Rehabilitation Services – \$629,540,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 478 – Disease Control – Non-Communicable Diseases – \$431,840,000

Programme: 478 – Disease Control – Non-Communicable Diseases – \$431,840,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 474 – Regional and Clinical Services – \$15,345,775,000

Programme: 474 – Regional and Clinical Services – \$15,345,775,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 475 – Health Sciences Education – \$46,781,000

Programme: 475 – Health Sciences Education – \$46,781,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 476 – Standards and Technical Services – \$220,244,000

Programme: 476 – Standards and Technical Services – \$220,244,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 477 – Disability and Rehabilitation Services – \$20,500,000

Programme: 477 – Disability and Rehabilitation Services – \$20,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 478 – Disease Control – Non-Communicable Diseases – \$167,734,000

Programme: 478 – Disease Control – Non-Communicable Diseases – \$167,734,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Let the Assembly resume.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we have two agencies remaining. Let me apologise to the staff of those agencies who will have to wait some additional time and return with us after lunch. Thank you very much, Hon. Minister and your staff of the Ministry of Health. Hon. Members, we will take a suspension for fifty-eight minutes.

Assembly suspended at 12.42 p.m.

Assembly resumed at 2.04 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members please be seated. The House will resolve itself into Committee.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

Mr. Chairman: We invite the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and his staff to join us as we consider the Estimates for Agency 57.

Agency: 51 – Ministry of Home Affairs

Current Expenditure

Programme: 511 – Policy Development and Administration – \$1,081,558,000

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Mr. Chairman, through you, I refer the Hon. Minister to line item 6116, Contracted Employees. I noticed that there is an increase of 45 staff. Could the Hon. Minister indicate the number of advisors employed under this line item, their employment benefits, their experience? Additionally, could you lay over the designation and emoluments of the additional staff?

Minister of Home Affairs [Mr. Benn]: The increase in this line item is just 3% and it relates to staffers – the Secretary of the Firearms and Licensing Board, Research Officer, utility service workers, Data Entry Clerks, Liaison Officers, System Development Officers, Personal Assistant, Confidential Secretary, persons for the Trafficking in Persons (TIPS) Unit in this line item. The emoluments related to this line item: there is a Ministerial Advisor and other persons as contracted employees under this head.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Under staff details, 329 staff are reflected. Under line item 6221, Drugs and Medical Supplies, \$41.5 million is the revised sum for 2021. A sum of \$51.1 million is allocated for 2022. Could the Hon. Minister indicate the down time in terms of days for the 329 staff? The reason I am asking is that there is a significant increase in this line item. Is it a case that you do not have confidence in the public health sector? Are you sourcing for an entire hospital?

Mr. Benn: I think the question is somehow misplaced. The only efforts we have made is in respect of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) of course, which reflects the 23% increase in drugs and medical supplies. All the agencies of the Government, all departments, every office, had to take stringent measures in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has had no relationship to our faith in the public health system in Guyana. I want to dispel that notion in the first instance. The Hon. Member may be aware that the Ministry itself and its agencies except, I think, for the prison, have had no death of any employee from COVID-19. We did have a death of a prisoner, I think, who had certain comorbidities. I think we could not conflate this line item with the overall public health system in Guyana which has been an outstanding representative of how public health systems are run in the Caribbean and Latin America.

2.10 p.m.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister, when I ask these questions it is for clarity. I represent a constituency. I refer to line item 6281, Security Services. Once again, I seek clarity. I noticed that there is a reduction from last year's revised sum of \$23.8 million. There is \$11.5 million allocated for this year. Is this a case where you are retrenching staff? I noticed that you are expanding your structure.

Mr. Benn: The reduction, which is significant, is reflected in the fact that the immigration offices in Linden and New Amsterdam are now being serviced by the Guyana Police Force.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Just for clarity, did the Hon. Minister say New Amsterdam and Linden?

Mr. Benn: Yes, Mr. Chairman, at the risk of repeating myself.

Ms. Chandan Edmond: At the risk of me not hearing you clearly, I have to ask for clarity. I refer to line items 6294 and 6284, Other: Could the Hon. Member layover the disaggregation for the sums allocated in these line items? I am asking that the disaggregation be laid over in the interest of time.

Mr. Benn: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members. In the interest of clarity for the constituency of not only the Hon. Member, I am also going to say what these issues are. They relate to diversion programmes in the Juvenile Justice Department; software upgrades for \$14.23 million; the payment for the advertising of bids for vacancies in the public advisories for \$3 million; the normal washing and sanitising – \$500,000; for brokerage services, bank charges and consultancy fees – \$7.1 million; and the replacement of door locks and repairs to the cabinets – \$340,000. This increase caters for diversion programmes related mostly to the Juvenile Holding Centre for young offenders.

In relation to line item 6294, again, it is for various agencies and departments. There are operational expenses for the Juvenile Holding Centres – \$6 million; Community Policing Groups (CPG) – \$75 million; for the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons – \$7.486 million; the Firearms Licensing Approval Board – \$660,000; for the Strategic Management Department – \$450,000; for the main office and the New Opportunity Corps (NOC) – \$4.2 million; and payment for officers attached to the Special Organised

Crime Unit (SOCU) – \$51 million, and its operational expenses for the Forensic Laboratory – \$150,000; stipends for Evaluators – \$300,000; and stipends for board members. The increase is basically 8% for that line item.

Ms. Chandan Edmond: Hon. Minister, I refer you to line item 6231, which deals with fuel and lubrication. Could you indicate if the relevant officers have been trained in store regulations to ensure that there is the segregation of duties for requesting, authorising and collecting fuel? This question is premised on the findings of the Report of the Auditor General. If yes, when was the last training conducted?

Mr. Benn: The line item refers to Fuel and Lubricants. It is for the operational needs of additional vehicles related to the NOC; fuel for generators and other vehicles of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Juvenile Holding Centre, and the Citizen Security Programme (CSP). In respect to all these issues – after review – the appropriate standard operating procedures (SOPs) and approaches to ensuring the proper use of the fuel and lubricants are being strengthened and put in place. If we talk about some of these issues, we still have legacy issues in relation to them. There are lots of records of the use of fuel and other materials – spares and other things – which are missing from a certain period, previous to when we came into Office. I do not want to go there at the moment, unless provoked. Just let me focus on our line items. I do not want to have to delve into the details and have to take a step backwards to let us have great clarification of where and why we are at this point now, in terms of making improvements.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister, your remark in relation to provoking and provocation will have absolutely no impact on me. I refer to line item 6241, which deals with the rental of buildings. In 2021, the revised sum is \$4.4 million. For 2022, \$19.1 million has been allocated. Could you explain the increase? Are you renting more buildings? If yes, for what purpose? Or is it a case that there is an increase in rental charges?

Mr. Benn: The simple answer in respect to the increase at the rental of buildings is that we are renting buildings to house victims of trafficking in persons for the Juvenile Justice Department, in addition to the payment of rentals for the senior staffers and Immigration Support Officers in various areas of the countries.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: I refer to line item 6112, Senior Technical: What is reflected here is that you had 20 staff in

2021 and 20 staff is again reflected for 2022. Yet, there is an increase in this allocation. There is \$48.4 million for 2021 and in 2022 there is \$56.6 million. Could you explain this increase, please?

Mr. Benn: I thank the Hon. Member for her interest in this matter. This is a \$17% increase. There is \$8.2 million reflected in that increase as a result of the changes in salary for the budget in 2022.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Thank you once again, Minister, I refer you to line item 6117, Temporary Employees, would the same explanation suffice?

Mr. Benn: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that.

Mr. Chairman: Is that line item 6117?

Mr. Benn: It is line item 6117, Temporary Employees. I could call them out. There are two temporary appointees...

Mr. Chairman: No, I am looking because my page... unless I am suffering again from the...

Mr. Benn: It is line item 6117.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, because there was a decrease from the actual figure last year. Is it line item 6117?

Mr. Benn: No, there is an increase.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry; it is an increase.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister, I will refer you again. I asked if the explanation for line item 6112 would be the same explanation for line item 6117. Is your answer, yes?

Mr. Benn: Yes.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: It reflects a 7% increase.

Mr. Benn: It is, yes. There is also an increase in staffers.

Programme: 511 – Policy Development and Administration – \$1,081,558,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 511 – Policy Development and Administration – \$583,901,000

Ms. Chandan Edmond: I refer to project code 1216500 that deals with the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme. Under the description for this project, it speaks about strengthening capacities and social integration, *et cetera*. Could the Hon. Minister indicate the specific sums that have been allocated towards social integration? What technical staff do you have dealing with this aspect of the programme – their qualifications, *et cetera*? Could you layover the status of the reintegration programme? This question is asked against the backdrop where we see several repeat offenders being charged.

Mr. Benn: I want to thank the Hon. Member for the interest being shown in this matter. The Citizen Security Strengthening Programme has been pursued over a long number of years in respect of having us evolve to a better position in relation to the security in communities and how we relate with each other. There are a number of outstanding evaluation reports done, with respect to not only general, normal coastal communities but also indigenous communities, to give us a view of how we can best respond to the social, economic and other issues in those communities, and how we have to intercept, interdict and create better conditions in relation to security in the communities.

The capital total for the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme is \$475 million. The expertise relates not only to persons who work in the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme but also to experts whom we hire from the University of Guyana and other consultants who are available in our society in respect to citizen security. Since there was extensive request with respect to what the area does, I could say that we have established, recently, 20 community action councils. One thousand, two hundred and ninety-three youths completed vocational training.

Entrepreneurship training, geared towards reducing unemployment, was carried out in targeted communities where 205 youths benefitted from that training. There were 186 youths who received financial grants of \$312,750 dollars to start a business, each. There were 20 community needs and asset assessments completed in all 20 communities. Community members were trained on domestic violence, parenting skills to prevent child maltreatment, and conflict reduction to reduce interpersonal violence. This was carried out in 20 communities. Mentoring programmes were carried out. Rapid impact projects were designed and implemented in the communities. I could call some of those communities

– Vreed en Hoop, Westminster, Klien/Pouderoyen, Albouystown, Charlestown, Sophia, South and North Ruimveldt, Alberttown, South Cummingsburg, Kingstown, Lacytown, North Cummingsburg, West Ruimveldt, La Penitence, Agricola, Mc Doom.

2.25 p.m.

Mocha, Providence, Annadale, Lusignan, Buxton, Friendship and Vigilance, Enmore, Haslington, Bush-Lot, Kildonan, Nurney, Friendship, Albion, Kilcoy, Fyrish, Port Mourant, Rose Hall, Tain, Adelphi Village, Canefield, Angoy's Avenue, Wismar and Rosignol.

In terms of what is required which is beyond the efforts of the Ministry of Human Services and the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, it may appear modest but they are significant because they are targeted and what we are doing in respect of the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme is, now that we have information, now that we the research and now that we have data, we are transitioning it into activities where we talk about increasing the peace in Guyana and perhaps, the snide remark about people going back to prison and so forth... actually, recidivism in the prisons have been reduced; recidivism has been reduced. It will get better now as we move with the new construction at Lusignan, create better conditions and to create a rehabilitated environment for prison our system.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: I do not consider the remark that I made to be a snide one. If your position is that there has been a reduction, could you provide me with the statistics? Project code 1216600, Buildings: \$19,400,000 has been allocated under the description of the project, there is a provision for room, Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) cupboard and trestle. Could the Hon. Minister say the specific sums that has been allocated for the cupboard and the trestle, and whether one contractor would be providing the service? This is a very important question, Minister, you are accountable to the people.

Mr. Benn: I do not only want to be accountable to the people but accountable to Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond who is my shadow. I would say, for the 2021 roll over projects, these projects were publicly advertised for. There is an extension of the secretariat building, you may see it when you pass on the road now; it is \$11.8 million. The supply and instillation of cubicles which appears to be extremely important is \$1.1 million. The supply and instillation of a sanitation tunnel is \$128,000 all for a sub-total \$13 million.

In terms of the 2022 projects, there is a construction of a storage room for \$2.5 million, construction of a required specific technical DNA cupboard with sink for Turkeyen for the forensic laboratory \$1.9 million, the construction of the trestle \$1.959 million; the total for both is \$19.4 million.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Project code 2405800 – Land Transport: \$12.7 million has been allocated. Could the Hon. Minister indicate the number of vehicles he intends to purchase and which locations are expected to benefit from the purchase?

Mr. Benn: Hon. Member, there was a rollover procurement of a vehicle, one at \$3.7 million and for a minibus for 2022, which is not a rollover, but procurement for \$9 million, which totals to \$12.7 million.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Project code 2609100 – Community Policing: \$24.1 million has been allocated. This project entails the provision of motorcycles, outdoor engines, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), radios, *et cetera*. Could the Hon. Minister indicate which specific Hinterland community groups would benefit from this purchase, the type of motorcycles that are airmarked for the Hinterland community groups? Could you also indicate the number of community groups that exist within the Hinterland?

Mr. Benn: Thank you, Hon. Member. We have 177 Community Policing Groups in Guyana. Those groups were re-established and rejuvenated because they were practically shut down over the last period. When we came, the community policing system was dismantled and much of the assets disappeared; the boat, engines and ATVs disappeared. We could not have find some of them. We had to get the police to help us to recover some of that equipment. The reason you may see an increase in the capital for this particular project area is because of that problem. If I were to say where all of these things would go, there is 177 and we would create 175 new ones beginning this year. It goes with our overall posture of creating an environment in the communities where we intercept and interdict actionable intelligence on what are the stresses in the community so that we could reduce crime and violence and increase the peace in Guyana. The procurement of the ATVs and motorcycles are \$5 million, 25 handheld radios will also be provided and 10 motorcycles for \$4.5 million. There are only two long foot outboard engine for Mabaruma and Santa Mission, and a short foot 40 engines for shallow river; Charity, Leguan and the Berbice River four for \$8 million.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Minister, the question was very specific. How many of the motorcycles, ATVs, *et cetera* are airmarked for the Hinterland community groups? I commend you for the 177 community groups but, again, the question is very specific. How many community groups exist within the Hinterland?

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Minister, very specific.

Mr. Benn: The motorcycles are for all regions but mostly for the Hinterland areas. That is basically the answers.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: For the purposes of clarity, I may have missed it. Hon. Minister, did you indicate the number of community groups that exist within the Hinterland?

Mr. Benn: I will lay it over for the purposes of the information and clarification which ones are for the Hinterland regions. From January to December, 2021, we formed 176 groups with 2531 members, 34 youth groups with 981 members, 12 women's group with 190 members were also created and these are mostly in the Hinterland regions. Groups are formed in the Interior, areas which never had existing groups such as Moruka, Orealla, Santa Mission, Sirikata and Mabaruma. Those are some of the areas. Since the Hon. Member is interested in the groups which were formed over the period; Mahdia, one; two Campbelltown, which is a subset of Mahdia Cabana, Wallaba, Kamwatta, Mora, Haimarakabra, Waramuri, Rengton, Karabiru, Parakaishuru, Arakaka, Annai, Toka, Caribisi, Nappi, Shulinab, Tapanaruib, Sawariwau, Awarewaunau, Shea, Agatash, Dog Point, Capoey, Riverview, Karrau, Itaballi, Santa Aratak, Vriesland... [**Hon. Member:** *[Inaudible]*] I could call all of them if you have the patience.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Minister, we may not have the time.

Mr. Benn: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Holder: Mr. Chairman, under the same project code, is the Minister saying that the police is incapable of investigating theft which was committed from the police? I heard him saying that boats and others were missing. I am asking if the police are incapable of investigating theft within their department.

Mr. Benn: Hon. Member, I never suggested from the floor of this House that the police were incapable of investigating or dealing with theft from amongst themselves. That is the first issue.

The second issue is that the community policing groups are not police. They are volunteered persons who on their time off assist the community in relation to policing activities. This issue has nothing to do with the police in itself.

However, I did say that we had to get the support and assistance of the police to recover boats, engines, ATVs, pickups and all sorts of items which were in the community policing groups, in some cases they were misused for political purposes. We had to get the police to help us to get those things back. There is no conflation between the activities of the police and their capability of doing their internal investigations for any indiscretion of police itself and the activities in terms of the community policing groups. The community policing group persons are not police.

Ms. Fernandes: The policing group list that you called out from, a few moments ago, you mentioned that they are new policing groups. From that list, you had an area that I am very familiar with which is Agatash. I know for a fact that Agatash had a functioning policing group. Sir, the question is, these groups that you are referring to as new groups, have they replaced the existing groups? The use of the word “new” is giving us the impression that they were never there before.

Mr. Benn: Thank you, Hon. Member. My view is that these are new community policing groups. The groups were disbanded, their equipment were taken away, their pick-ups and trucks were taken away, their means of transport were taken away, the little shot guns were taken away... **[Mr. Ramjattan: [Inaudible]]** The Former Minister overlooked the dismantling of the community policing groups system in Guyana and that is a fact. It is a fact. We had to get new people and get new members in the community to reform the groups, to resuscitate the system and that is the fact.

Ms. Fernandes: I have one follow up, Sir. Could the Hon. Minister give the specific date that the group he is referring to as “new” for Agatash was established? What was the date that the group who was there before not in place anymore? Thank you.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. Benn: The information will be provided for the Hon. Member.

Programme: 511 – Policy Development and Administration – \$583,901,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 512 – Guyana Police Force – \$15,727,171,000

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister, I refer you to line item 6302, Training (including Scholarships), I notice there is a substantial increase of \$41 million. I want to say to you that this is very commendable; it means that you are investing in our personnel and you are provoking yourself. Could you indicate to me the number of officers who will benefit under this line item, the areas of training and the departments from which they will come? Also, could you indicate to me whether it is strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) feasibility or gap analysis that was done on the Guyana Police Force to determine the critical areas that need training and the areas of training? If yes, could you indicate when this guiding study was done, the outcome, the findings and the analysis?

Mr. Benn: Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, it is unfortunate that the former Minister of Public Security is allowing someone else to face the music in respect of issues to which he has intimate knowledge. **[Mr. Mahipaul:** Who are you talking to?] No, my erstwhile Friend, Hon. Member Mr. Ramjattan. We speak of an increase of 50.86%. This involves training, both national and overseas; and lecture fees. More courses will be conducted in 2022 and 300 policemen and policewomen are identified for training so far. Much of this training, there is a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Guyana Police Force and the University of Guyana (UG) in respect of training for police officers for the first time. I just wish to say that this is insipient to our setting up soon a police academy. I also have to point out that there is a strategic management plan which has components specific in respect of training. That strategic management plan is for 2022-2026. Amongst this item, there are trained trainers for \$5.7 million, safety and security management diplomas for \$9.875 million; strategic intelligence gathering for \$6.2 million; there is going to be a degree in public management training for \$19 million; the further design, the tweaking of the strategic management plan for \$1.5 million; a bridging course to qualify for advance security management, Masters for \$16.9 million;

and, critically now, training in cyber security for \$10.8 million, totalling some \$70 million.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Minister, are you prepared to lay over this guiding study that you made reference to?

Mr. Benn: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. We can give some information. There is nothing to hide.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Once again, Minister Benn, that is very commendable. Like I said, you are provoking yourself only. I refer to line item 6311, which deals with Rates and Taxes. The sum of \$278,000,000 is allocated. Could you please indicate to me how much of this \$278,000,000 will be paid for the properties in Georgetown?

Mr. Benn: I cannot say, *off the cuff*, what proportions. We would have to spread it out against all the other police stations in all the other communities, in all the other towns. I will have to lay it over. We will have to sit with the Mayor and City Council (M&CC) and see what they are claiming for.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Minister, are you committing to providing this information within a week?

Mr. Benn: Once we get the request from Georgetown and the other townships, we could give the information. As soon as it is ready, based on what is given to us from the City Hall.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister, I refer you to line item 6116, Contracted Employees. I notice that there is an increase of 64 contracted employees, and the sum of moneys has increased also. Could the Hon. Minister lay over in writing the designation of the 64 new employees and their emoluments that take the sum from \$57 million to \$291 million.

Mr. Benn: There is no mystery to this thing, as Hon. Member Ramjattan would know. Regarding the contracted employees, this increase is related to the coming into operation of the police command centre, which is nearby. We have had to employ 57 intelligence video surveillance (IVS) operators; policy analyst; legal advisor; engineer; a human resource assistant; basically the same thing in terms of other; a legal advisor; a lawyer; a junior legal advisor; an attorney at law; a financial analyst; a pathologist; a communication's coordinator; a policy analyst; a forensic auditor; a Public Relations Officer (PRO); an engineer;

councillors; human resource assistants; and I aforesaid, IVS operators; and a clerk of works.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Minister, I refer you to line item 6231, Fuel and Lubricants, I noticed that the sum in this line item has increased by only \$2,500. With us being an oil producing state, major investments are taking place daily. One would have expected that the Ministry would have had more plans and programmes for patrol, *et cetera*. I believe that there should have been an increase in this line item. As I said in my budget speech, we are an oil producing state and we have to operate in that manner to protect our environment and be prepared for anything.

Mr. Benn: Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Hon. Member was previously harping on the fact that there was an increase elsewhere in respect of fuel and lubricants. Now, in respect of the police, where we are showing that we have better control, based on their advice, in respect of the new vehicles which are coming in, better control over accounting for the fuel and lubricants and for the use – there is only a 0.44% increase in the request – I think we should be very satisfied with that.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Just for clarity, Minister, when I asked the question previously under the other programme, I was not querying on the amount allocated for that line item. I merely inquired whether the staff were trained in the store operation procedure.

Mr. Mahipaul: I have to have a touch at this. Sir, this same line item 6116, Contracted Employees, could the Hon. Minister indicate what recruitment procedure was followed for the employment of these additional staff? If there were public advertisements, would the Hon. Minister be kind enough to lay it over in writing?

Mr. Benn: The employment for persons to the police force relies specifically, at these levels, beyond where there are advertisements for persons at the higher levels, for persons who apply to the Guyana Police Force for employment. That is how the IVS operators applied. They were interviewed. They were screened. They were trained. They were placed and were accepted if they performed in respect of the job at the work. Then, there were some persons who were bonded employees, such as the engineers, the human resource assistant and some others from the Ministry of Public Service.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Hon. Member Ms. Ferguson.

Ms. Ferguson: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A pleasant afternoon to you and to the Hon...

Mr. Chairman: And to you too.

Ms. Ferguson: Nice to see Mr. Hickens in the House today.

Mr. Chairman: I think the Hon. Member Mr. Ramjattan set the tone earlier this morning.

Ms. Ferguson: May I turn the Hon. Member's attention to line item 6272, Electricity Charges? I note that in 2021, there was \$178 million. There is a revised sum for 2021 of \$163,638,000. I note that there is a slight increase for 2022 of \$178 million. Could the Hon. Member explain the reason for the increases and which areas within the Guyana Police Force is likely to benefit from these allocations?

Mr. Benn: By the Hon. Member's own admission, we are speaking of a slight increase. It relates to the coming into operation of new buildings, new police regional command places, new housing for police officers, the command centre and other areas throughout the country.

Programme: 512 – Guyana Police Force – \$15,727,171,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 512 – Guyana Police Force – \$1,785,600,000

2.55 p.m.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Project code 1216800 – Police Stations and Buildings: There has been an excess of \$1 billion here and, again, I have no issue with this and I believe you should be commended. Under the description of the project, I notice it is for: "Completion of Mabaruma, Ruimveldt, Providence, Yarakita..." Could you indicate the projected dates for completion of the listed police station and a detailed breakdown on the amounts to be spent? Could you also indicate what is the status of the Albion, Whim, Mahdia and Wismar Police Stations? Are the works completed? I recall these works commenced in August, 2020, under the Security Strengthening Programme? Also, could you indicate whether the rehabilitation works at the Parika Police Station are completed?

Mr. Benn: I think that the rehabilitation works are finished for the Parika Police Station. We have a long list of police stations for which works are under way and some are rolled over. We expect that by the end of the second quarter, all of these would be at practical completion. I may call out in respect of the rollover: Mabaruma Police Station – \$21 million; Ruimveldt Police Station, reconstruction – \$32 million; Providence Police Station – \$36 million; Yarakita Police Station, which just started – \$20.6 million; Charity Police Station, minor works – \$2.7 million; Imbaimadai Police Station – \$13 million; Kamarang Police Station – \$14.8 million; Kurupung Police Station – \$7.8 million; Kato Police Station – \$8.8 million; and there is the construction of living quarters at the Port Kaituma Police Station for \$686,000. There is a completion to be done to two of the Senior Officer's living quarters at Eve Leary Police Station for \$11.7 million.

In respect of activities for new police stations or for 2022 new projects, we have an allocation of \$405 million for the construction of a new Brickdam Police Station. For Regional Command Operation Stations, we will be doing work at Anna Regina, Leonora, Fort Wellington, Central Police Station and at Wismar for \$150 million. We will be upgrading the Technical Services Unit (TSU) operational area for \$40 million. The construction of a floating ramp for the Marine Police at Ruimveldt for \$12 million. We intend to reconstruct the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters building for \$28 million. We will also be doing new living quarters at Eve Leary Police Station for \$25 million. The Special Constabulary Headquarters will be redone for \$20 million and there will be rehabilitation at the Baramita Police Station for \$20 million, the Charity Police Station for \$36 million and the Rose Hall Police Station for \$20 million. The Brickdam barracks are under rehabilitation forced on by the issues of the fire for \$20 million. Tuschen will get a police station at \$19 million. The Den Amstel Police Station will be rehabilitated. The boat house at New Amsterdam will be done for \$10 million and there will also be a new ramp for that for \$8 million, which is a total of \$1 billion basically.

Ms. Chandan-Edmond: Hon. Minister I believe you may have missed it. I did ask what is the status of the Albion, Whim and Parika Police Stations?

Mr. Benn: All of those, Hon. Member, are at practical completion.

Ms. Ferguson: The very project code 1216800, Police Stations and Buildings, earlier the Hon. Member listed a number of buildings currently under construction or will be constructed. I heard Charity Police Station is for some \$30 million. Perhaps you can correct me there but, as far as I am aware, the Charity Police Station is currently under construction, if my memory serves me accurate.

Secondly, could the Hon. Member state for this Assembly and the people of Guyana whether there is a design for the new Brickdam building? I note we are expected to expend more than \$4 million. We would like to know what this new architecture will look like.

Mr. Benn: It is \$36 million for the Charity Police Station. In respect of the new police station, the Brickdam Police Station, we had three conceptual designs of which we have adopted one. We intend to – along with our engineering group which has been enhanced by the employment of our own engineers – work with some consultants in respect of the structural design, the foundation design and issues related to the reticulation in the building for fire, water and electricity.

Ms. Ferguson: To the Hon. Member, am I to understand that the construction of the Charity Police Station cost \$36 million as the final cost or a retention fee is paid? What is it this \$36 million will take care of? Thank you.

Mr. Benn: There was some other cost in respect of electricity and the finishings for the building. At Charity there were some problems in relation to the foundation of the building. There is a lot of pegasse and stuff at the bottom there, so some additional works had to be done which affected some other issues in the building.

Ms. Ferguson: Sir, to the Hon. Member, you said that there were some issues with the foundation. Could I get from you whether soil testing was done to determine the kind of structure to be placed there, rather than the building being partially constructed, we are now being told that the foundation had some issues? Is it that we are putting *the cart before the horse*?

Mr. Benn: Initially, for a project which we inherited, the Hon. Member may recall it was for the rehabilitation of a building. That was what was embarked upon. When we chanced upon and when we made the discovery of the issues, we had to move from rehabilitation to construction, an inherited project.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Mahipaul, proceed and this would be the final question we will have under this Agency as we have just exhausted the one hour which has been allocated. Mr. Mahipaul, you may have the floor.

Mr. Mahipaul: Project code 2405900 – Land and Water Transport: There is a cost there of \$300 million for: “Provision for vehicles, motorcycles, boats and engines.” We also have the breakdown that speaks to trucks, minibuses, motorcycles, boats and engines. When my Hon. Colleague Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, asked in respect of fuel and lubricant, the Guyana Police Force has an existing fleet of vehicles. They spent \$457,995,000 in 2021 for the vehicles that are currently existing but now they are endeavouring to purchase more vehicles, which is very good to enhance security and so on in our country, travelling more and doing what has to be done. There is only an increase of \$2,005 in the allocation from what they spent in 2021. I think it is relevant for me to ask again if the fuel and lubricant figure is adequate for the vehicles that exist and the ones that the Guyana Police Force is endeavouring to purchase.

Mr. Benn: I want to thank the Hon. Member for his great interest in this matter. There is, in fact if we had paid some attention, to a replacement of vehicles. Vehicles have been boarded which were old and which were not operating. The new vehicles which we are bringing in or have acquired are more efficient on fuel and lubricants. Based on the calculations and taken into account those issues, this is the number we have come up with. If for some extraordinary reason we are required to get into more operational activities using the vehicles, we will come back for a supplementary. This is the basic reason that we have the number we are speaking of, new vehicles, more efficient vehicles, and replacement of vehicles.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much Hon. Minister for the basic reason, and I basically now have to put all of the heads as we have exhausted the time.

Programme: 512 – Guyana Police Force – \$1,785,600,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 513 – Guyana Prison Service – \$2,418,481,000

Programme: 513 – Guyana Prison Service – \$2,418,481,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 515 – Guyana Fire Service – \$1,058,560,000

Programme: 515 – Guyana Fire Service – \$1,058,560,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 516 – General Register Office – \$4,950,000

Programme: 516 – General Register Office – \$4,950,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 517 – Customs Anti-Narcotics – \$63,955,000

Programme: 517 – Customs Anti-Narcotics – \$63,955,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 513 – Guyana Prison Service – \$2,839,563,000

Programme: 513 – Guyana Prison Service – \$2,839,563,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 515 – Guyana Fire Service – \$1,656,087,000

Programme: 515 – Guyana Fire Service – \$1,656,087,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 516 – General Register Office – \$214,064,000

Programme: 516 – General Register Office – \$214,064,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Programme: 517 – Customs Anti-Narcotics – \$460,445,000

Programme: 517 – Customs Anti-Narcotics – \$460,445,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister Mr. Brindley Horatio Benn and all of the staff for taking us through his agency. As the Hon. Minister, Mr Horatio Benn and his team depart, let us welcome the Hon. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Kumar Singh and the staff at the Ministry of Finance to the Dome to consider the Estimates for Agency: 03 Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Mahipaul: [*Inaudible*]

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Hon. Member Mr. Mahipaul, I wanted to take a break, but we took an extra-long lunch, which was only an hour ago that concluded.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. I welcome you and your staff.

Agency: 3 Ministry of Finance

Current Expenditure

Programme: 031 – Policy and Administration – \$31,402,756,000

Ms. Fernandes: Line item 6141, Other Employment Costs, last year the public servants had an across the board 7% increase. Under this line item, we see an increase from the allocation of \$10 million last year to \$15,800,900 this year, could the Hon. Minister say if this indicates that the public servants should be enjoying a higher increase than 7% this year?

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance [Dr. Singh]: I believe it is relatively well known and has been abundantly ventilated in this honourable House that line item 6141, Other Employment Costs, is a line item that is intended to meet and serve multiple purposes. It is the line item that historically meet the cost of miscellaneous employment costs not elsewhere budgeted for, including such items as new recruits, because of course, we have a time-honoured principle in the central government of budgeting only for filled vacancies, persons who are currently in post within the individual budget agencies. If one were to take, for example, the budget for the Ministry of Home Affairs which we just completed consideration of, that budget would reflect in the employment costs under its respective programmes, an allocation to meet the persons who are currently in position.

We have, of course, continued to respect this time-honoured principle, and so across the entirety of the budget, across the full spectrum of budget agencies, the funds allocated for employment costs are intended to meet the cost of persons who were in position at the time the budget was completed. Of course, during the course of the year, for one reason or another that might emerge from time to time, new recruits might be employed for whom an allocation would not be available within the respective budget agencies and so this other employment cost line item would meet the costs associated with those new recruits, so the first and perhaps most popular application of this line item is the cost of new recruits.

Secondly, one might have revisions to wages and salaries for a variety of reasons, for example, as a result of promotions, a person might be occupying a particular post at the time that the budget is concluded but during the course of the year is promoted or might have his/her wages and salaries revised, whether for purposes of reclassification or assignment of addition of duties, payment of a responsibility allowance which was not previously anticipated at the time that the budget was concluded— a variety of reasons. The cost of those revisions is also met from this line item, so one may have new recruits, one may have the revision of wages and salaries for a variety of reasons, and then of course, like the Hon. Member quite rightly identified, the costs associated with the salary increase that is eventually to be concluded and awarded whenever that is concluded and awarded whenever that is concluded and awarded, and so this allocation also meets the cost if the salary increase that is to be paid for the fiscal year in question. As to the specificities of that salary increase, needless to say, it is of course, far too early for me to determine; but once determined, the salary increase that would be paid would in fact be met by this line item.

Ms. Fernandes: In the interest of time, I would ask two questions together. A follow up on the same line item, 6141, Other Employment Costs, thank you, Hon. Minister for that detailed explanation of that line item. I want to note that this question is specific to last December, actually, there was a commitment to the doctors and nurses to have this one-off payment, however, those doctors and nurses that does not come under the Ministry of Health, and rather come under the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, did not receive any moneys from that pay out. I am asking, since I know that this particular line item could also cater for some one-off payments, if there is any provision for the doctors and nurses that were not paid, that falls under the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security for this particular line item. Please answer that one first because the follow-up would come from your response.

Dr. Singh: The Hon. Member is absolutely correct; the announcement made by the Government last year to pay the one-off bonus payment to workers in the health sector was in fact met from this allocation in 2021. I must admit that I am not in a position to pronounce on the specificities of any particular sub-set of workers, whether I think the Hon. Member mentioned the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security. I must admit that I am not in a position... I do not currently have in my possession information

pertaining to that subset, but health workers who were paid this bonus were paid from this line item.

Ms. Fernandes: I just want to say that I understand your explanation, thank you. I know that I have engaged the Hon. Minister, Dr. Vindhya Persaud on this matter and she said that she is working towards seeing how she could get the payment for them, so that is something I hope we could actually achieve under this particular line item, because I think that there was just some kind of miscalculation or something and they were left out. Nevertheless, you acknowledged that increase in wages and salaries would also fall under this particular line item. My question is on a policy level side of it, is the Minister of Finance going to meet with the Guyana Teacher's Union (GTU) and the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) in negotiations for these increases that are projected under this budget?

Dr. Singh: Let me assure the Hon. Member that the People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) Government is firmly committed to working closely with all stakeholders in society, including of course, organised labour on all matters of national importance.

Ms. Fernandes: Thank you, for that commitment, Hon. Minister. Could the Hon. Minister give a timeline, as to when those discussions are expected to begin?

Dr. Singh: The Hon. Minister is pleased to say that this Government, throughout the year, is open, available and eager to engage with all stakeholders in society.

Ms. Fernandes: Moving away from this line item to line item 6242, Maintenance of Buildings, I see the budget for that line item is \$58 million, could the Hon. Minister give us a breakdown of what that \$58 million is going to cover?

Dr. Singh: This is going to cover rehabilitation of various parts of the Ministry of Finance's facilities, including rehabilitation of northern and eastern interior walls, timber floor, network re-cabling, ceiling works, electrical rehabilitation of the roof, electrical maintenance, miscellaneous repairs *et cetera*. I rather suspect that the line has attracted or aroused the member's interest because of what might appear to be a significant increase, and I would say in relation to that matter, there are some long overdue rehabilitations that is required on the roof. I cannot say why that work was not done during the 2015-2020, period, but it is indeed long overdue, and we are proposing to finally do that work this year. That is the specific item addressing long

overdue and much postponed rehabilitation to the roof. That is the item that accounts for the increase.

Ms. Fernandes: Thank you, Hon. Minister, for that explanation. I believe it was given last year when \$34 million was budgeted under that line item, however, the revised figure is only \$11.7 million being utilised, so based on that indication, we do not know what percentage of the \$58 million would actually be utilised this year. Line item 6264, Vehicle Spares and Services, I see the allocation for 2022, being \$14.4 million, I see in 2021, the budgeted figure was \$13 million, and the revised figure was \$6.2 million, so what caused this projection to be \$14.4 million for 2022?

Dr. Singh: Before I move on to the vehicle spares, let me return to the maintenance of buildings and refresh the Hon. Member's memory. The Hon. Member suggests that an explanation was proffered last year in relation to this line item, perhaps, the Hon. Member has forgotten that she and her colleagues stormed out of the National Assembly long before we got to the Ministry of Finance's consideration of estimates. The record would reflect that the Opposition did not avail itself of an opportunity to ask questions on the Ministry of Finance estimates. This alleged question that has posed an explanation that was proffered, is in fact, either a figment of the Hon. Member's imagination, or a deliberate fabrication, but I would withdraw the latter, Sir.

Suffice to say, and for purposes of emphasis, when the Ministry of Finance estimates came up for consideration last year, the Opposition had already withdrawn from consideration of the estimates, and I would urge the Hon. Member to desist from creating an inaccurate impression. This Minister was not asked any question on this line or on any other line in the Ministry of Finance's estimates; and to suggest otherwise, if I might respectfully suggest it, to imply or suggest otherwise is either the product of an overactive imagination or some other sinister motivation.

Mr. Chairman: You have to withdraw the second part.

Dr. Singh: Happily, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. It is imputing.

3.25 p.m.

Dr. Singh: In relation to the question of vehicles, spares and service, the Ministry has inherited a fleet of dilapidated vehicles that appear to have suffered abandonment and extremely poor maintenance over the course of the 2015 to

2020 period. We have started to conduct an assessment of that fleet and we have discovered in fact, that some of the vehicles are in need of very significant maintenance. We are in fact considering how to proceed with this fleet. Some of the vehicles, as many of the vehicles as we could possibly bring back to be in serviceable quality, we will endeavour to do this. This in fact is a stark illustration of what happens when there is poor or non-existent maintenance as there apparently was during the 2015 to 2020 period. Thank you, very much, Sir.

Ms. Fernandes: The Hon. Minister is absolutely correct about last year under line item 6242 where we are discussing the \$58 million. I am happy that the Hon. Minister reminded this House that he was not here to answer this question. My question back to line item 6242, since the Hon. Minister did not have the opportunity to answer these questions, we see that \$58 million ...

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Minister, I was just about to ask the Hon. Member to rephrase that. She was not here to provide herself with the opportunity to ask the question.

Dr. Singh: With the greatest of respect, Sir I could not possibly answer a question that was not asked. Thank you, very much, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, Ms. Fernandes, please continue.

Ms. Fernandes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, under line item 6242 we have an allocation as we are seeing of \$58 million. Based on the 2021, allocation of \$34 million, we see the revised figure coming at \$22,272 million less. What indications could the Hon. Minister give to us as to what are these works, what is the timeline given for the start of these works now because we see that you did not spend \$22,272 million under that line item last year, as was budgeted for. When do you intend to start work on this line item this year, so that we could actually use up that \$58 million?

[Technical difficulties with the audio]

Mr. Chairman: We may have to check under the Chief Whip's chair because the last time it was the Chief Whip's chair. Let me cut off and then you could put back on. Go ahead, Hon. Minister try again.

Dr. Singh: I could see the red light. Thank you, very much, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Try again.

Dr. Singh: Yes, Sir, we are on. Just to clarify, in fact ... It would appear...

Mr. Chairman: You are on again.

Dr. Singh: It would appear that the Chief Whip on that side of the House is up to his old tricks.

Mr. Chairman: No, you are imputing there, Hon. Minister.

Dr. Singh: I would gladly withdraw, once again, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: I was referring to the Chief Whip on this side. We may have to check under the Chief Whip's desk.

Dr. Singh: My memory is not what it used to be when I was younger, but my recollection is that it was the Chief Whip on that side of the House that appeared to have some electrical wiring under but [*inaudible*] my microphone is working.

Mr. Chairman: That controls the microphones on his side. I was similarly concluding that maybe it is on your side.

Dr. Singh: Very well, Sir. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Are you okay now?

Dr. Singh: I think we are on now.

Mr. Chairman: We did stop the clock and we will provide the four extra minutes.

Dr. Singh: In relation to the question asked by the Hon. Member, some of the works to which I referred earlier, in fact has already been started work in relation to the rehabilitation of some of the exterior walls, some of the interior work including on the flooring and the interior walls and some network re-cabling. That work, in fact has already been initiated and will be continued during this year as rollover projects. The remainder of the work, we will initiate with the greatest of expediency. In fact, some of this work is going to tender, as early as next week.

Ms. Fernandes: We were tracking a timeline. Line item 6284 – Other: I know that the Hon. Minister proffered an explanation in this House, I believe it was yesterday as to what this line item takes into consideration. However, I believe it was my Colleague, the Hon. Member, Mr. Mahipaul who highlighted that. He did not mention some of the things like Advisors and so that we have been pulling out of this particular line item. We see for the allocation under

this line item for 2022 it is \$170 million. Could the Hon. Minister, kindly, disaggregate this figure? It is coming from the revised figure in 2021, being \$56.414 million.

Dr. Singh: The Hon. Member acknowledges the explanation that I offered yesterday in relation to the potential... I provided I think an inexhaustive list of potential applications of this miscellaneous expenditure item. Include in the particular instance of the Ministry of Finance, this line item also meets expenses in relation to legal fees and pending legal matters. Since we have assumed office and since we have been in the course of taking stock of pending matters confronting the Government, we have been discovering a number of pending legal matters for which provision might need to be made and so this allocation is intended, potentially and hopefully, Sir, to cover all such matters as might be identified during the course of the year.

Ms. Fernandes: Just a follow-up on that, what proportion of the \$170 million would be actually allocated towards legal fees?

Dr. Singh: I would say potentially, in the order of, if I might be permitted to round it up, of \$150 million.

Ms. Fernandes: Is it \$150 million towards legal fees? Could the Hon. Minister say how many cases does this entail?

Dr. Singh: Regrettably, Sir, the Hon. Minister is not in a position to provide that information now.

Ms. Fernandes: Could that information be laid over?

Dr. Singh: Not easily, Sir. Like I mentioned earlier, we are in the process of unearthing these. There is an inherited stock of pending matters. As we have gotten settled into office and taken stock of a variety of pending matters, we are in the process of unearthing these. Regrettably, I am not in a position at this stage to provide that information.

Ms. Fernandes: Moving on from that line item. Line item 6302 – Training (including scholarships): We have a budgetary allocation of \$4 million. I notice that the budgetary allocation for 2021, was also \$4 million but no money was expended out of that in 2021. What training is the Hon. Minister proposing to be done with this \$4 million?

Dr. Singh: In fact, we have an allocation both under Programme 1 and Programme 2 for training. In fact, I believe under Programme 2 there is also an increased amount for training. We have identified a number of areas in

which critical training is needed, areas relevant to the work of the Ministry and more broadly, areas relevant to financial management across Government. These include, if I might be permitted in anticipation to address the training line under Programme 2 as well, it includes training like of course, public procurement. This is not training only for the Ministry of Finance, but it is also training for procurement officers and persons working across the government service, government accounting, government financial management, use of the Integrated Financial Management and Accounting System (IFMAS), because we have lots of new Accounting Officers and staff who have been recruited over the years and who we discovered never really quite benefitted from this kind of training.

If I might Sir, with your permission address both Programme 1 and Programme 2 training which I believe also reflects some increase, its training in various aspects of Government financial management, not just for the Ministry of Finance staff but also for financial management staff more broadly. In relation to the fact that the training was not executed during the course of 2021, we would have liked very much to have delivered this training but regrettably it has proven to be extremely challenging to bring large groups of people together because of the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19). We discussed for some time the possibility of remote delivery, but we were not quite able to develop the modules and have them in a way that would lend themselves easily to remote delivery. Hopefully, the situation will permit execution and delivery of this training this year, ideally face to face, so that we could have the kind of interaction that is needed. If not, we might have to take a second look at the feasibility of delivering some of this remotely.

Ms. Sarabo-Halley: I am at line item 6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations – the Bureau of Statistics. I am just querying whether or not, this agency intends to do the census this year, since we are coming on 10 years since the last census.

Dr. Singh: Absolutely, Sir, we are. In fact, 2022 is a census year in accordance with the 10-year cycle. Did I refer to this in my budget speech? I may have mentioned. It might have escaped the Hon. Member's recollection. There was a section in the budget speech that dealt with statistics. In that section I believe, if I did not, I beg your forgiveness, I did point out that 2022, will be a census year.

Mr. Mahipaul: I would like to go back to line item 6141, and I must say in my budget speech I made reference to the across-the-board 7% salary increase. My concern was really with the Regional Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Mayors and Deputy Mayors. I want to say that the Hon. Minister was kind enough to say to me that he will endeavour to look at the matter, and once it satisfies the requirements to be a part of the increase that is going to be given, that he is going to endeavour to address the matter. I am not a financial expert and I know that this was a 7% that was from 2021. I am absolutely certain that once the requirement for the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, Mayors and Deputy Mayors to also be part of this across-the-board increase, they will be included for 2022.

3.40 p.m.

I believe the Hon. Minister will ensure that happens. However, my concern is that it does not take away from the fact –should he be satisfied that they do fit the requirement– that they were short-changed in 2021. As long as it is addressed by the Minister and satisfies the requirement to be a part of any salary increase expected from this \$15 billion and they are going to get it in 2022, I would like to know if they will also be able to get that 7% that they were short-changed with from 2021? I have taken note that from the allocation in 2021, \$218,196,000 million was not spent.

Dr. Singh: Since the Hon. Member has availed himself so astutely of the opportunity to place on the public record that he has raised this matter with me, I will reciprocate in kind and say that as soon as the Hon. Member brought this matter to my attention I undertook – with the efficiency that is customary of the People's Progressive Party/Civic Government – immediately to look into this matter and resolve it as the circumstances may dictate. I will reciprocate by placing that on public record. Thank you, very much.

Ms. Fernandes: I am going back to line item 6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations: Looking again at the Bureau of Statistics, the Hon. Minister is right in his budget presentation he said that it is a significant year for statistics in Guyana and the region and it marks the conducting of the 2020 round of the population and house census, but he also made reference that the census would utilise the geographic information system to improve mapping *et cetera*. My only difficulty is that the revised 2021 contribution was \$604,330 million and the budget for 2022 is just \$1 billion. It is just \$395,670 million. I do not

see how we are catering for this huge census across the country with that small increase to that agency. Could the Hon. Minister kindly explain to us how is this small increase going to cater for this census for 2022?

Dr. Singh: Notwithstanding that a census is typically associated with a particular year, one may have census 2012 or census 1990 going back some years, 2000 or whatever. In this case one will have census 2022. Notwithstanding that a census is associated with a particular year, quite a lot of the preparatory work starts long before the census year. The Bureau of Statistics have already started preparatory work including things like developing some of its draft data collection tools, initiating preparation of its questionnaires, its field manuals, doing some of the pretesting, setting up the information technology (IT) systems that are required for the purposes of collecting, collating, consolidating and ultimately analysing the data that would be collected. [An Hon. Member: *[Inaudible]*] Yes, Sir. Would the Hon. Member like me to restart my answer? [An Hon. Member: *[Inaudible]*].

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, I am hearing someone in a conversation...

Dr. Singh: No. The Hon. Member asked a question, but she looked momentarily distracted so I was offering...

Mr. Chairman: Yes. I think someone is on a phone or something.

Dr. Singh: Very well. Quite a lot of preparatory work already have taken place in the year before the census. Embedded in that revised amount for 2021 is in fact some expenditure that would have been incurred in association with the preparatory work. Given the vastness of the endeavour that a census is, it is a once in a decade activity, quite a lot of the preparatory works happens. The Hon. Member may recall from previous censuses that the census activity does not get completed in the year in which the census is executed. Work will continue beyond 2022. One will see in the budget for 2023, work continuing the analysis of the data. Like I said, collating, consolidating, compiling, analysis, preparation of census report *et cetera*. Work will continue beyond the fiscal year 2022, into 2023. A census, while associated with a particular year is in fact a multiyear activity.

The Hon. Member can rest assured that the 2021 expenditure have included some amounts incurred in relation to

preparation for the census. There will without a doubt be an escalation of activity in 2022, in particular because this will be the year in which the field work will be executed, the actually visiting to the households by the enumerators. The 2022 census day once determined and announced will indeed represent the epicentre of the census activity, but census activities will continue even into 2023. What we have done in *Budget 2022* is we have provided an indicative amount that we have given the information currently at our disposal and believe it will suffice for the purposes of the 2022 census activities. This is our best estimate at the current time given currently available information of what the 2022 activities connected to the census will cost if during the course of the year we ascertain that work is moving more quickly than we anticipated or that there are additional activities that are required to be executed. We will of course, return to this honourable House in the manner provided for in law to seek supplementary appropriations. I hope that addresses the matter, Sir.

Ms. Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, could I ask how far into our time we are right now?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, you can. We started at 3.10 p.m. I am adding four minutes on to the time. We are now at 3.48 p.m. We should complete at 4.10 p.m. which would now become 4.14 p.m.

Ms. Fernandes: Sir, could we kindly move to the capital expenditure? Thank you.

Programme: 031 – Policy and Administration – \$31,402,756,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 031 – Policy and Administration – \$9,074,108,000

Ms. Fernandes: Project code 4400700 – Poverty Programme: We see an allocation of \$100 million. Could the Hon. Minister kindly indicate to this House how exactly this sum will be utilised?

Dr. Singh: This is a programme that is demand driven. It supports needs for projects in communities and organisations across the country. It is demand driven and it is managed within the Ministry of Finance. We have set up an administrative structure within the Ministry of Finance to consider requests for these community-based or

organisation-based projects and these projects are executed through the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the agencies involved.

Ms. Fernandes: On the next page we have the Linden Enterprise Network (LEN) under Contributions to Local Organisations. In 2022, we see an allocation of \$50 million for the capital contribution. Could the Hon. Minister say whether there is a board in place for this? If not, when is the board expected to be in place? Lastly... I am asking three questions together on this particular line item. How soon can the people of Linden expect to be able to utilise this sum?

Dr. Singh: In answer to the Hon. Member's question in relation to the board, the board is in fact not currently in place. It is a matter that is currently engaging the attention of the Government. Actively, even in the absence of a board the staff at the LEN relate very closely with the technical leadership at the Ministry of Finance. In fact, they are in close communication with the Finance Secretary (FS) and others in the Ministry. We still maintain a very close engagement with the team at the LEN. Like I said, the matter of the appointment of the board is under active consideration and I expect should be concluded forthwith.

Ms. Fernandes: Project code 2601200 – Statistical Bureau: We see the allocation here being for the provision of storeroom, vehicle, furniture and equipment. Could the Hon. Minister state with regards to the storeroom, where will the storeroom be located and what would be in storage there?

Dr. Singh: The storeroom is at the Bureau of Statistics main office on Main Street. It is a storeroom like any other storeroom. It is used to store consumables and equipment belonging to the Bureau. I believe possibly records also. I am not sure but definitely equipment and consumables.

Ms. Fernandes: Going back to the Linden Enterprise Network, I want to know if there is a timeline on when the board will be put in place because the persons will not be able to access this fund unless the board is put in place.

Dr. Singh: I believe the word I used earlier was forthwith.

Ms. Fernandes: In the interest of time, could we kindly move forward to the other programme?

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, very much. You are so kind.

Programme: 031 – Policy and Administration – \$9,074,108,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Current Expenditure

Programme: 032 – Public Financial Management Policies and Services – \$6,560,002,000

Ms. Fernandes: Line item 6262 – Overseas Conferences and Official Visits: We see an allocation of \$205 million. Could the Hon. Minister say what this entails? What are the expectations of the Ministry to utilise this funding for 2022?

3.55 p.m.

Dr. Singh: As the Hon. Member knows, of course, that these are very unusual times in which we live, particularly because of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) international travel has changed, significantly. A lot of the international meetings that were previously held face to face are now being held online or were being held online at least until last year. Some of this has changed and some have not. It is very hard for recent history to be a reliable basis on which to predict a future activity in relation to this line item. Some agencies are resuming face-to-face engagements, others are not. We anticipate some resumption of face-to-face interaction at the international level, but the extent to which this materialises is very closely connected to how the situation of COVID-19 evolves and how the international level response to that evolution looks in the months ahead.

Ms. Fernandes: On that same line item, we see the revised number for 2021 is actually \$118.466 million. Could the Hon. Minister say if there was any source of financing for the Government's overseas trips from any businesses within the private sector?

Dr. Singh: In relation to the central Government's participation in international engagements, this is the line item that meets that expenditure. I do believe that there are one or two agencies that might have an allocation of their own. I do not recall off the top of my head how much this has changed. I believe that the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) might have an allocation. In fact, I am on the page now, the GDF also has an allocation under that line item. I cannot remember if the Guyana Police Force [inaudible]. Sir, might I just confirm before I answer? I am advised that apart from the Ministry of Finance, which meets the central obligations of the Government, the only other two agencies in the central

Government that have an allocation under this line item are the Guyana Defence Force and the Guyana Police Force.

Ms. Fernandes: Line item 6284 – Other: Could the Hon. Minister kindly disaggregate the figure of \$304,820,000?

Dr. Singh: The predominant expenditure met under this line item, in the case of the Ministry of Finance, is in fact software and user licences. It would be recalled that the previous People's Progressively Party/Civic Government had implemented an information and communications technology (ICT) solution for the purposes of Government financial management, the Integrated Financial Management and Accounting System (IFMAS), as it was then and still is known, which, of course, is an automated digital solution for government financial management, and requires us to pay software licences and maintenance fees. We have licence fees for the IFMAS System. We have a subscription for the Human Resource (HR) Management System. We have Enterprise Business Productivity Licences. We have Enterprise Platform Systems Licences. We have Enterprise Software tools. We have the cost of connectivity for the purposes of Government financial management. It would be recalled, of course, that all the budget agencies within the Central Government, we have connected to a single Integrated Financial Management System so that requires connectivity and the purchase of bandwidth – in some cases fibre-optic and in some cases the purchase of bandwidth.

Then, of course, there are other things like security based anti-virus, firewall subscriptions, and so on. I am pleased, in fact, to say also that we are in the process of implementing an Electronic Funds Transfer System (EFT) and a Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS). These systems are intended to be used for the purposes of the electronic execution of payments. In fact, on our return to Government, we did issue an instruction that we should move to a point where all Government employees are paid directly into their bank account rather than by way of cheques. I am pleased, in fact, to report that we have as of, I believe, July, 2021, achieved that objective of paying all Government employees directly into their bank account with the exception of Government employees based in the far-flung regions. That is, in regions where there is not a banking system, and where the employees do not have ready access to banks. There are software fees and other charges associated with the applications that are required to support the EFT and RTGS capabilities. Thank you, very much, Sir.

Ms. Fernandes: Just one follow-up on that. Could the Hon. Minister kindly say what is the allocation that goes to the purchase of bandwidth?

Dr. Singh: [*Inaudible*] In fact, the Hon. Member might note, historically, that line item used to meet the cost of bandwidth, we have, as of 2022, reclassified under Telephone and Internet Charges. I might respectfully draw the Hon. Member's attention to line item 6271, Telephone and Internet Charges. The Hon. Member would observe that there is in fact an increase in that line item. That increase accounts for the internet bandwidth, which we thought would be more suitably classified under that line item.

Ms. Fernandes: The only reason I asked is that when the Hon. Minister was actually calling out what the Other was for, he actually mentioned the purchase of bandwidth and I knew it was reallocated to another line item. You actually called it out, when you listed the items for Other – purchase of bandwidth. That is why I asked. Nevertheless, I think I am done with this part.

Dr. Singh: Very well, Sir. I commend the Hon. Member for drawing my attention to this matter. In fact, what I have here is a tabulation both of last year and this year. It is listed here, but you are absolutely correct. It is very astute of you to have noticed that it was reclassified. Might I also avail myself of the opportunity to correct something that I said earlier? I do not want to be on the record saying something that was inaccurate. I said earlier that the Guyana Police Force and the GDF have an allocation for overseas conferences. In fact, the GDF has an allocation for overseas conferences, not the Guyana Police Force. The Guyana Police Force has an allocation out of which the cost for overseas training, I think, is [*inaudible*] under the training line. I just want to clarify that.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, Ms. Fernandes are you through? Hon. Member Ms. Ferguson.

Ms. Ferguson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for acknowledging me. To the Hon. Member, if I could draw his attention to line item 6116, Contracted Employees, I notice under the Staffing Details your staffing is increased by one. The proposed allocation for 2022 is some \$451 million. Could the Hon. Member explain to us whether it is a new opening? If yes, what is the designation of the person, where is the person assigned, and what is his/her emoluments? Thank you, very much.

Dr. Singh: Certainly, Sir. Just to clarify that while the number increases by one, from 82 to 83, it is not that one person has been recruited. There has been a net increase of one. Some persons left, and some came on. The net impact of the ones that came on minus the ones that left is an increase of one. The reason the expenditure increased by the amount that it has increased to is that in keeping with the established practice, when they came one in 2021 as new recruits, they were paid under line item 6141, Other Employment Costs allocation. Thank you, very much, Sir.

Dr. Cummings: Mr. Chairman, I was tempted to ask you to go to the Capital Expenditure, but then I am looking at the capital and I am wondering if it is under Other. I have not seen anything on the projects for the Natural Resource Fund (NRF). Over this side we are not against development. As you said here that you want to strengthen the legislative framework governing the NRF and some of the moneys will be transferred to the Consolidated Fund and so forth. But for others looking on, and for me trying to give information, for the Natural Resources Fund where would those projects be or as is it as a project comes up, you take from...? Just enlighten us and give some information on the Natural Resource Fund because none is identified here. Just enlighten the public. Thank you.

Dr. Singh: Certainly, and gladly Sir. The Hon. Member would recall, of course, that we brought a new revised, revamped, and significantly strengthen Natural Resource Fund Bill to the National Assembly last year. That Bill addressed, I would say, the most egregious and offensive shortcomings of the previous Natural Resource Fund Act that was in place. Foremost among those, in fact, are the measures that were designed to strengthen the extremely alarming, and indeed some might say, even vulgar weaknesses in governance as prescribed under the 2019 NRF Act; including, for example, the introduction of a board of directors where a board of directors did not exist previously, and a scaling back of ministerial powers as distinct from the extensive, intrusive and excessive ministerial powers under the 2019 Act, *et cetera*.

Critical amongst the provisions that needed to be addressed was the fact that under the 2019 legislation a number of loopholes were left through where expenditures could be met from the Fund, bypassing the parliamentary process and without appropriation. [Ms. Ferguson: That is not a fact.] No, that is a fact. It is a fact that the NRF Act of 2019 included provisions that would have allowed expenditures to

be met directly from the Fund, bypassing the appropriation process. That is a fact. The new NRF Act of 2021 establishes a mechanism whereby transfers from the NRF Act come into the Consolidated Fund in their entirety and are then appropriated through the budgetary process. We have spent the entirety of the last four days interrogating the budget that has provided allocations for a variety of initiatives, national development priorities, and projects which would have benefited from scrutiny by this National Assembly.

4.10 p.m.

The mechanism that is provided for in the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) Act is one whereby withdrawal is made from the NRF, transferred to the Consolidated Fund and then they all form part of the fungible pool of resources in the Consolidated Fund, then national development priorities are appropriated through the budgetary process.

Ms. Fernandes: Just a follow-up on the response from the Hon. Minister. I believe the reason my Colleague asked the question is because throughout the interrogation of the Estimates, we were being told that we have to ask the Minister of Finance which are the projects that will be utilising the NRF amount. Could the Hon. Minister actually say, how will this House know what specific projects will be utilising the NRF and, also, how will that money be audited?

Dr. Singh: The withdrawals from the NRF are deposited into the Consolidated Fund. National development priorities are determined through the budgetary process of which the appropriation process is an integral part. The national budget is then subjected to scrutiny during the course of its implementation and execution, and it is then subjected to exposed auditing, of course importantly, with scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) process.

Ms. Fernandes: I understand all of that. As a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, I was hoping that we would have had a transparent system in which we would be able to track, specifically the moneys from the NRF and how it is being spent. This is the first time this Fund is being utilised in a budget. The least we expect as Members of the National Assembly is to be able to tell the people of this country that this is what the Fund was used for. Thank you, Sir.

Dr. Singh: I am sorry, Sir. I might have missed it; was there a question hidden in there?

Mr. Chairman: There was a remark and, if you so please, I would ask that you respond. If not, we could put the question.

Dr. Singh: I will reiterate that this Government is committed to the highest level of transparency and accountability. In fact, over the course of the years, history will record that it was the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), during our previous term in Office, that had to restore the very important element of accountability that involved the production of audited financial statements. In fact, it is now a fact of considerable notoriety that, for the last 11 years that the People's National Congress was in office until 1992, not a single year of audited financial statement had been produced. In fact, for the 11 years the people of Guyana were denied an opportunity to scrutinise financial statements, documenting what was collected and what was expended by the Government. In fact, the most cardinal and essential requirement of public accountability is audited financial statements. For 11 years not a single set of financial statements had been prepared much less audited. That, in fact, is a fact that is widely documented. It was upon the assumption of Office of the People's Progressive Party/Civic, in 1992, that the practice of producing audited financial statements was reintroduced for the first time. Since then, multiple steps have been taken to further strengthen accountability and transparency in public financial management, including a new and modern financial management legislation in the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act (FMAA) – a new audit act.

Indeed, in fact, the 2001 constitutional amendments included a number of provisions spearheaded by the People's Progressive Party/Civic and shepherded through the constitutional reform process to enshrine stronger public accountability provisions in our constitutional architecture. These include, for example, an enhanced mandate for the Public Accounts Committee to remove from the Minister of Finance the role of submitting the Auditor General's reports to the National Assembly. In fact, it was widely felt, prior to 1992, that the Ministry of Finance had been instrumental in frustrating the audit process. The 2001 constitutional amendments, I am sure that the Auditor General's reports were going to be submitted directly to the Speaker and then tabled in the National Assembly that has since been the practice since those 2001 amendments. Of course, very critically, the 2001 Constitution also established special sectoral committees including the Economic Services

Committee, the Natural Resources Committee, the Social Services Committee...

Ms. Ferguson: Mr. Chairman, may I?

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member Ms. Ferguson, proceed

Ms. Ferguson: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman for acknowledging me. I stand on a Point of Order – Standing Order 40 (a). The Hon. Member asked the Hon. Member a question and by right he should provide an answer rather than a political statement.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Member, the Hon. Member Ms. Fernandes made a remark, and I offered the Hon. Minister an opportunity to respond. I actually also signalled him his time to wrap up or I will cut him off. I made a gesture to him. Hon. Members, now, with that intervention, I will have to put the remaining programmes as we have exhausted the time.

Programme: 032 – Public Financial Management Policies and Services – \$6,560,002,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Capital Expenditure

Programme: 032 – Public Financial Management Policies and Services – \$124,300,000

Programme: 032 – Public Financial Management Policies and Services – \$124,300,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Let me take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Minister and his staff for taking us through his agency.

Dr. Singh: Permit me, Sir, similarly, to thank you and all of my Colleagues who posed questions and gave me an opportunity to elaborate, and of course, to reiterate thanks to my own team.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much, Hon. Member and team. Hon. Members, this completes consideration by the Committee of Supply of the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2022. The Assembly will now resume.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, you have the floor.

Appropriation Bill

Dr. Singh: Thank you very much, Sir. I believe I am at the point where it is my duty to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2022 and has approved of those Estimates as printed.

Mr. Speaker: I will now put the motion which is:

“NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2022, of a total sum of five hundred and one billion, six hundred and seventy-eight million, two hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$501 excluding fifty one billion, two hundred and fifty-five million, and four hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$51,255,420,000) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in Schedule 1, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly approves the recommended lump sum subvention for each Constitutional Agency for the financial year 2022 as stated in Schedule 2, amounting to a total sum of eleven billion, seven hundred and twenty-nine million, eight hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$11,729,840,000) which is charged upon the Consolidated Fund by the Constitution and for the sums voted for the Constitutional Agencies to form part of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures of Guyana for the financial year 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the sum of 126,694,310,000 equivalent to US\$607,646,570.98, to be withdrawn from the Natural Resource Fund for the financial year 2022 in accordance with the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021.”

Motion put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54

BE IT RESOVLED:

“That Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 be suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2022, No. 1 of 2022 to be introduced at this stage.”

[*Prime Minister*]

Prime Minister [Brigadier (Ret'd) Phillips]: Mr. Speaker, with your leave, I move that Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 be suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2022, No. 1/2022 to be introduced at this stage.

Question put and agreed to.

Standing Orders suspended.

Dr. Singh: Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 171 of the Constitution, I signify that Cabinet has recommended the Appropriation Bill 2022, Bill No. 1/2022 for consideration by the National Assembly. I now present the Bill to the Assembly and move that it be read for the first time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND FIRST READING

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

Appropriation Bill – Bill No. 1/2022

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2022, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.”

[*Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance*]

Question put and carried.

Bill read the first time.

Dr. Singh: Thank you very much, Sir. I now move that the Appropriation Bill 2022, Bill No. 1/2022 be read a second time.

4.25 p.m.

Bills – Second and Third Readings**Appropriation Bill 2022 – Bill No. 1/2022**

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to provide for this issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2022, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.”

[Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance]

Question put and carried.

Bill read a second time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported without amendments, read a third time and passed as printed.

Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill 2022 – No. 2/2022

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and the Customs Act.

[Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance]

Dr. Singh: Thank you very much, Sir. It is, in fact, not my intention to speak at great length in relation to this Bill. During the course of the Budget debate, and indeed throughout the course of the Budget debate, we have been considering and discussing various elements captured in the Bill. The Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill is intended to amend the legislation, the relevant tax statutes. Hence, it is being intituled the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill. The Bill is intended to amend the various tax statutes that require amendments for the purposes of giving effect to the measures included in *Budget 2022*.

It would be recalled, for example, that there are provisions in *Budget 2022* that are intended to increase the income tax threshold. That measure was announced in the context of *Budget 2022*. It was, of course, I believe, adequately and abundantly ventilated during the course of the debate on the Budget. This Bill now seeks to give legislative effect to that announcement. The Bill similarly seeks to give effect to other tax measures announced during the course of *Budget 2022*. To give you a second example, we announced the removal of the withholding tax from persons earning interest income not exceeding \$10,000 per annum, intending to give relief to persons with deposits below a certain threshold or earning interest income below a certain threshold. This Bill seeks to give effect to that provision.

Other provisions that are addressed by this Bill include, importantly, the provision that provides relief for insurance premiums that are paid. It would be recalled, similarly, that the Budget announced that we will be providing tax relief to persons paying for life and medical insurance up to a specified threshold. This Bill seeks to give effect to that announcement. Sir, as I said at the beginning, certainly at this stage, it is not my intention to address this in any significant or protracted manner. I believe these issues were abundantly addressed and ventilated during the course of the Budget debate. Depending on the observations made by my Colleagues on that side, I will return at the conclusion of this matter to address any issues or questions raised. With that, Sir, I will move at the appropriate time that the Bill be read a second time and be passed as printed. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Hon. Members are there any contributions? Hon. Member Mr. Ramjattan, you have the floor.

Mr. Ramjattan: I just want to say that it is a Bill that comes as a consequence of the Appropriation Act and the motion for the Budget being passed. Of course, during the debate, we did criticise the issues like the threshold, to get it higher. We are restating by virtue of this this brief remark that we have done our criticism of it during the course of the budget debate. The Government has the majority, Mr. Speaker, so you would have to put the question I suppose.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, proceed.

Dr. Singh (replying): Thank you very much, Sir. I believe that it is my duty now to move that the Bill be read the second time and I so do.

Question put and carried.

Bill read a second time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, proceed.

Dr. Singh: Thank you, very much, Sir. I feel it is my duty to express great regret that our friends on that side of the House saw it fit to oppose these measures that are intended to benefit the people of Guyana. Be that as it may, we on this side of the House are pleased to report that, notwithstanding the objections of our friends on that side of the House, the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill 2022 – Bill No. 2/2022 was considered in Committee clause by clause and was passed without amendments. I now move that the Bill be read a third time and passed as printed.

Bill reported without amendments, read a third time and passed as printed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we have one piece of tidying up to do. The Hon. Member, Mr. Ramjattan did raise an issue this morning with respect to the suspension of the Hon. Member, Mr. Duncan being done when the Assembly was in Committee. I now call on the Hon. Minister, Ms. Teixeira to move the motion formally in the Assembly.

MOTION

Motion for Suspension of Member, Mr. Sherod Duncan, M.P.

WHEREAS yesterday during the consideration of the Estimate of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, a Member, Mr. Sherod Duncan, M.P., displayed gross disorder and disregarded the authority of the Chair;

AND WHEREAS the said Member was named by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House;

AND WHEREAS a motion was moved and agreed to that the Member, Mr. Duncan be suspended from the service of the House;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Orders require that such a motion be made in the Assembly and not in Committee;

AND WHEREAS the motion is now placed before the Assembly as required by Standing Order No.47 (3) (b),

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Member Mr. Sherod Duncan, M.P., be suspended from the service of the Assembly for four (4) consecutive sittings.

[Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip]

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: The days started from today, thank you. Hon. Members, this concludes our business for today. Hon. Prime Minister, you have the floor.

Brigadier (Ret'd) Phillips: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of Parliament (MPs) on this side of the House, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the manner in which you conducted the business of the House. It successfully brought us to this point, the conclusion of the business of the House pertaining to the passage of the Budget for 2022. Thank you and your staff for the work over the past two weeks, Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED:

“That the Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.”

[Prime Minister]

Brigadier (Ret'd) Phillips: I now move the adjournment of the Assembly to a date to be fixed.

Motion put and agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, let me join the Hon. Prime Minister in thanking all Members of the House and the staff – all the support staff, services, security, maids, our support staff from the different agencies and ministries and the media for their contributions to the successful completion of the 2022 Budget. Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Adjourned accordingly at 4.40 p.m.