

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**  
**IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,**  
**LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)**

**Speaker (1)**

\*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly (Virtual Participation)

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (37)**

**Peoples Progressive Party Civic (37)**

**Prime Minister (1)**

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark A. Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

**Vice-President (1)**

Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President

**Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)**

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

**Senior Ministers (16)**

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip

Hon. Hugh H. Todd, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

**\*Non-Elected Member**

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara),  
Minister of Education

\*Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Minister of  
Agriculture

Hon. Pauline R.A. Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Hon. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources

\*Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam), Minister of Local  
Government and Regional Development

Hon. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini), Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Vindhya V. H. Persaud, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of  
Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Sonia S. Parag, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

**Junior Ministers (4)**

Hon. Warren K.E. McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Works

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional  
Development

Hon. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the  
Ministry of Housing and Water

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**\*Non-Elected Member**

3.

**Other Members (14)**

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Hon. Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Hon. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Hon. Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.

Hon. Faizal M. Jaffarally, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Hon. Dr. Tandika S. Smith, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hon. Lee G.H. Williams, M.P.

\*Hon. Sarah Browne, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

\*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

**MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)**

**(i) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) (31)**

Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, M.P.

Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

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

Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Karen R.V. Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Absent)

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**\*Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P.

Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Virtual Participation)

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini)

Hon. Shurwayne F.K. Holder, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Vincerooy H. Jordan, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprashad, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Hon. Richard E. Sinclair, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)(Absent)

Hon. Devin L. Sears, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

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

Hon. Lenox R. O'Dell Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

**Officers (2)**

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms. Deslyn West, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

5.

### **COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 10.10 a.m.

### **PRAYERS**

The Clerk led in Prayers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

#### **(1) COVID - 19 Test**

The Speaker informed Members that since the Clerk, some staff and himself were tested one week and two days ago for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) resulting in some results proven positive, the Clerk made it mandatory that all staff be tested. Of the one hundred and twenty-six samples collected, fourteen have proven to be positive. The Clerk has since provided a care package, including supplements, to all staff.

#### **(2) Food**

The Speaker informed Members that since several Members fell ill after consuming food on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, the Clerk and a Member met with the caterer. The caterer is currently trying to ascertain what caused the problem. Speaker also informed that Members of the Government and Opposition were affected.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection)

Minutes of the Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

(Circulated)

### **ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

The Speaker disallowed a request from the Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to ask an oral question without notice in relation to the visit of Mr. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States of America to Guyana.

### **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **MOTION**

### **BUDGET SPEECH 2020 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2020**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2020.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2020-09-09)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, M.P.

Hon. Sonia Parag, M.P. Minister of the Public Service

Hon. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Tandika Smith, M.P.

Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 12.04 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 1.24 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

7.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Hugh Todd, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 2.25 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 2.49 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P.

Hon. Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks, M.P.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.13 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.11 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

8.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Vindhya V. H. Persaud M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P.

Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7.22 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

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**HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,**

**Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

**16<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**