

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 6<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 THURSDAY, 17<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 (Absent on – leave)

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

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

/...3

**\*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.

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

Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P. (Absent)

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.

/...4

**\*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. Vincero 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)

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

### **COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 10.02 a.m.

### **PRAYERS**

The Clerk led in Prayers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

#### **(1) Birthday Greetings**

The Speaker extended birthday greetings and best wishes to the Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.

#### **(2) Rulings of the Speaker**

The Speaker stated that criticisms of rulings by the Speaker is not allowed, according to Standing Order #46. The Speaker made mention of a very offensive post on social media by an Honourable Member and that it was his wish that positive action be taken to remove the post. The Speaker said that Members should be guided by the rules of procedure of the National Assembly. He stated that Members should not display placards in the House. He informed the House that certain language/words like (lie, shut up, and shut your mouth, and so on). are not permitted.

**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. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Nigel Dharamlall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 11.58 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 1.19 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

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

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

Hon. Frank Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

7.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.58 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.18 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

### **COVID-19 Update**

Speaker informed Members that he had spoken to Dr. Payne, Deputy Head of the COVID-19 Centre and learnt that the World Health Organisation criteria for the release of COVID-19 patients from isolation was ten days after symptom onset, plus at least three additional days without symptoms. The Speaker informed Members that if all goes well, he will be physically at the Sitting on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.

Hon. Brindley Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Education moved that the Sitting continue beyond 8.00 p.m. to enable the remaining speakers on the schedule to make their presentations.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

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

8.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8.48 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

.....

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

**Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Brickdam,  
Georgetown.**

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