

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 9.30 A.M.
ON FRIDAY, 25TH 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

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**

2.

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

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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 (Absent)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., 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.

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

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

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. (Absent)

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

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

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

Hon. Jermaine A. 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 (Virtual Participation)

5.

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 10.32 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. Collin Croal, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - BUDGET SPEECH 2020 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2020

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2020.

(Moved by the Minister with responsibility for Finance on 2020-09-09)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

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6.

45 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

Current Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

452 Housing Development and Management

Capital Expenditure

452 Housing Development and Management

Current Expenditure

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

Capital Expenditure

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

43 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Current Expenditure

431 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

431 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

432 Disease Control

Capital Expenditure

432 Disease Control

7.

Current Expenditure

433 Family Health Care Services

Capital Expenditure

433 Family Health Care Services

Current Expenditure

434 Regional and Clinical Services

Capital Expenditure

434 Regional and Clinical Services

Current Expenditure

435 Health Sciences Education

Capital Expenditure

435 Health Sciences Education

Current Expenditure

436 Standards and Technical Services

Capital Expenditure

436 Standards and Technical Services

Current Expenditure

437 Disability and Rehabilitation Services

Capital Expenditure

437 Disability and Rehabilitation Services

8.

47 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Current Expenditure

471 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

471 Policy Development and Administration

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.02 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.14 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

Current Expenditure

472 Disease Control

Capital Expenditure

472 Disease Control

Current Expenditure

473 Family and Primary Health Care Services

9.

Capital Expenditure

473 Family and Primary Health Care Services

Current Expenditure

474 Regional and Clinical Services

Capital Expenditure

474 Regional and Clinical Services

Current Expenditure

475 Health Sciences Education

Capital Expenditure

475 Health Sciences Education

Current Expenditure

476 Standards and Technical Services

Capital Expenditure

476 Standards and Technical Services

Current Expenditure

477 Disability and Rehabilitation Services

Capital Expenditure

477 Disability and Rehabilitation Services

49 – MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

Current Expenditure

491 Policy Development and Administration

10.

Capital Expenditure

491 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

492 Social Services

Capital Expenditure

492 Social Services

Current Expenditure

493 Labour Administration

Capital Expenditure

493 Labour Administration

Current Expenditure

494 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

494 Childcare and Protection

39 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Current Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

392 Social Services

11.

Capital Expenditure

392 Social Services

Current Expenditure

393 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

393 Child Care and Protection

38 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Current Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

382 Labour Administration Services

Capital Expenditure

382 Labour Administration Services

54 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

Current Expenditure

541 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

541 Policy Development and Administration

Assembly resumed

12.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.57 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.42 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

Current Expenditure

542 Police Force

Capital Expenditure

542 Police Force

Current Expenditure

543 Prison Service

Capital Expenditure

543 Prison Service

Current Expenditure

544 Police Complaints Authority

Capital Expenditure

544 Police Complaints Authority

13.

Current Expenditure

545 Fire Service

Capital Expenditure

545 Fire Service

Current Expenditure

546 Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit

Capital Expenditure

546 Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit

51 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

511 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

511 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

512 Guyana Police Force

Capital Expenditure

512 Guyana Police Force

Current Expenditure

513 Guyana Prison Service

Capital Expenditure

513 Guyana Prison Service

14.

Current Expenditure

515 Guyana Fire Service

Capital Expenditure

515 Guyana Fire Service

Current Expenditure

516 General Registrar Office

Capital Expenditure

516 General Registrar Office

Current Expenditure

517 Customs Anti -Narcotics Unit

Capital Expenditure

517 Customs Anti -Narcotics Unit

03 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Current Expenditure

031 Policy and Administration

Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

At 6.48 p.m. the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 7.00 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

15.

Capital Expenditure

031 Policy and Administration

Current Expenditure

032 Public Financial Management Policies and Services

Capital Expenditure

032 Public Financial Management Policies and Services

Assembly resumed

At 7.52 pm., Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works moved that the Sitting continue beyond 8.00 p.m. to continue and conclude the business for the day.

**ITEM 2 - APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

The Minister of Public Works moved that the Assembly approve the Statement of Expenditure for the period January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020, and for the sums \$183,156,687,000 which were withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund be included in the Appropriation Bill No. 1 of 2020.

(Paper presented on 2020-09-24)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Roysdale Forde, S.C., M.P.

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

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

16.

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

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

The motion was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Mr. Sears

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Holder

Mr. Cox

Mr. Henry

Ms. Fernandes

Mr. Duncan

Mrs. Singh-Lewis

Mrs. Walton Desir

Mr. Rajkumar

Mrs. Hughes

Ms. Mc Donald

Mr. Patterson

Ms. Ferguson

Mr. Jones

Mrs. Chandan-Edmond

Mrs. Sarabo-Halley

Dr. Cummings

Dr. Henry

Mrs. Hastings-Williams

Mr. Trotman

Mr. Forde

Mr. Ramjattan

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks

Mr. Narine

Mr. Datadin

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Seeraj

Ms. Rodrigues

Mr. A. Persaud

18.

Mr. Indar

Mr. McCoy

Ms. Parag

Mr. Ramson

Dr. V. Persaud

Mr. Croal

Mr. Dharamlall

Mr. Bharrat

Mr. Hamilton

Ms. Sukhai

Mr. Mustapha

Ms. Manickchand

Dr. Anthony

Bishop Edghill

Mr. Todd

Ms. Teixeira

Mr. Nandlall

Mr. Jagdeo

Mr. Phillips

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The Minister with responsibility for Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2020 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2020 was put and carried.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 – APPROPRIATION BILL 2020 – Bill No. 1/2020 published on 2020-09-10

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister with responsibility for Finance, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2020 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Minister with responsibility for Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

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 Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2020, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.28 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 29th September, 2020.

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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

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

25th September, 2020.