

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 13TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON TUESDAY, 29TH 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 (Absent)

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

/...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 (Absent on – leave)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

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

Hon. Dr. Karen R.V. Cummings, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 10.15 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcement:

(1) **Leave:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to the Members of A Partnership For National Unity+ Alliance For Change from today's Sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - AUCTIONEERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 2/2020 published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Auctioneers Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

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

6.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Auctioneers (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - CORPORATION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 3/2020
published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Corporation Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

7.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Corporation Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 3 - HUCKSTERS LICENSING AND CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 –
Bill No. 4/2020 published on 2020-09-21**

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Hucksters Licensing and Control Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Hucksters Licensing and Control (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

8.

ITEM 4 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 5/2020 published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.21 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the second reading of the Bill.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 5 - INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 6/2020 published on 2020-09-21

At the request of the Minister of Public Works the following Bill was withdrawn:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

ITEM 6 - MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 7/2020 published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Miscellaneous Licenses Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

10.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Miscellaneous Licences (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 7 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 8/2020 published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

11.

ITEM 8 - VALUE-ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 9/2020
published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Public Works moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Value-Added Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., spoke to the motion.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Value-Added Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 9 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 –
Bill No. 10/2020 published on 2020-09-21

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

(Read a first time on 2020-09-21)

12.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Public Works, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as printed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 10 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT OF FIRST SCHEDULE) ORDER 2020 – NO. 76 OF 2020

The Minister of Public Works moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Sections 8 and 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs (Amendment of First Schedule) Order 2020 (No. 76 of 2020) which was made on 21st September, 2020, under Section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 and published in the Official Gazette dated 21st September, 2020.

(Notice Paper No. 5 (M4 Govt 4) published on 2020-09-22)

13.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.54 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.52 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport also spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 11 - AFFIRMATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS 2020 – NO. 2 OF 2020**

The Minister of Public Works to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act, Chapter 81:05, affirm the Value-Added Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (No. 2 of 2020) which was made on 21st September, 2020, under Section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act, Chapter 81:05 and published in the Official Gazette dated 21st September, 2020.

(Notice Paper No. 6 (M5 Govt 5) published on 2020-09-22)

14.

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 12 - AFFIRMATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT OF FIRST SCHEDULE) REGULATIONS 2020 – NO. 3 OF 2020

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 98(3) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, affirm the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment of First Schedule) Regulations 2020 (No. 3 of 2020) which was made on 21st September, 2020, under Section 98(3) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02 and published in the Official Gazette dated 21st September, 2020.

(Notice Paper No. 7 (M6 Govt 6) published on 2020-09-22)

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

15.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.24 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,
Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

29th September, 2020.