

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 115TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2019) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 23RD MAY 2019,
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

*Hon Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (36)

(i) A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (36)

First Vice-President and Prime Minister (1)

+ Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., First Vice-President and Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (2)

+Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

+*Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Senior Ministers (16)

+ Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

+ Hon. Basil Williams, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

+ Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities

+ Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibilities for Culture, Youth and Sports

+ Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P., Minister of Finance

/...2

+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
- + Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Health
- + Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., Minister of Public Infrastructure
- +*Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship
- + Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Telecommunications
- +Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of State
- +Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Foreign Affairs
- +Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- +Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister of Education
- +Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam), Minister of Business
- +Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

Junior Ministers (6)

*Hon. Keith Scott, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Communities with responsibility for Housing

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Finance

Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of the Presidency

Hon. Valarie Patterson, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Rural Affairs

/...3

+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

Other Members (9)

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)
Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.
Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P.
Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)
Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.
Ms. Barbara P. Pilgrim, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/ Corentyne)
Ms. Donna Mathoo, M.P.
Mr. Reynard Ward, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (29)

(i) People’s Progressive Party/Civic -PPP/C (29)

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent)
Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P. (Absent)
Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)
Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)
Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P. (Absent)
Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)
Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P. (Absent)
Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P. (Absent)
Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Absent)

3 vacant seats in the PPP/C

4.

Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Ms. Gillian R. Burton-Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No.3 – Essequibo Islands/
West Demerara) (Absent)

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

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

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

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P. (Absent)

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P. (Absent)

Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. Death of Mr. Michael Anthony Abraham

“Honourable Members, I was informed of the death of Mr. Michael Anthony Abraham a former Member of Parliament who died on the 7th May, 2019 at his residence, Diamond, East Bank Demerara, after a period of illness. He was 70 years old having been born on the 26th September, 1948. Mr. Abraham came from the United Force.

Elections were held on Monday, 16th July, 1973, under the system of proportional representation for 53 Members of the National Assembly.

The Third Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 26th July, 1973. During the latter part of the Third Parliament, Mr. Michael Anthony Abraham was appointed an ordinary Member of the National Assembly on the 3rd April, 1978.

He made and subscribed the oath of Office on that date. Mr. Abraham served in the Third Parliament until it was dissolved on the 25th October, 1980. On the 15th December, 1980, Elections were held under the system of proportional representation for 65 Members of the National Assembly.

The Fourth Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 30th January, 1981. Mr. Abraham was again declared to be an ordinary Member of the National Assembly by the Elections Commission on the 28th December, 1980, and served in the Fourth Parliament until it was dissolved on the 31st October, 1985. Elections were held on Monday, 9th December, 1985.

6.

The Fifth Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 3rd February, 1986. Mr. Abraham was again declared to be an ordinary Member of the National Assembly by the Elections Commission on the 24th December, 1985.

Mr. Abraham served in the Fifth Parliament until it was dissolved on the 29th August, 1992. Mr. Abraham ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly on that date.

Honourable Members please let us stand and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Michael Anthony Abraham".

Thereafter, a minute of silence was observed, as a mark of respect, for the late Mr. Abraham.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Repsol Exploracion Guyana S.A. (formerly known as Repsol Exploración S.A.), Tullow Guyana B.V. and Total E&P Guyana BV) Order 2019 – No. 16 of 2019.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited, Cataleya Energy Limited (formerly Ratio Energy Limited), Ratio Guyana Limited and Hess Guyana (Block B) Exploration Limited) Order 2019 – No. 17 of 2019.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

1. GUYANA GOLD BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 – No. 8/2019

The Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Gold Board Act.

2. SMALL BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 – Bill No. 9/2019

The Minister of Business, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Small Business Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2019 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2019 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital)
totaling \$7,962,209,485 for the period 2019-01-01 to 2019-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 184 (M 131 Govt. 70) published on 2019-05-16)

(Paper presented on 2019-05-15)

(i) **11-111 – GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6323 – Constitutional Agency

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

4505500 - Constitutional Agency

(ii) **59-591 – ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6323 – Constitutional Agency

(iii) **05-056 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY – SOCIAL COHESION**

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2509900 – Furniture and Equipment

(iv) **03-031 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6294 – Other

(v) **32-321 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6241 – Rental and Buildings

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

(vi) **32-322 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – PUBLIC WORKS**

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1214900 – Infrastructure Development

1403800 – East Bank – East Coast Demerara Road Linkage

1403900 – Dredging

1404000 – Bridges

1404100 – Miscellaneous Roads/ Drainage

1404200 – Urban Roads/ Drainage

1404500 – Highway Improvement East Coast Demerara

1405200 – Hinterland Roads

1501400 – Sea and River Defence Works

(vii) **42-422 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
DEVELOPMENT**

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1903200 – Central Housing and Planning Authority

2802100 – Hinterland Water Supply

2802200 – Coastal Water Supply

2802300 – Linden Water Supply

2802600 – Urban Sewerage and Water

3600300 – Solid Waste Disposal Programme

(viii) **49-492 – MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION – SOCIAL SERVICES**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

6284 – Other Goods and Services Purchased

(ix) **49-493 – MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION – LABOUR
ADMINISTRATION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

(xx) **49-494 – MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION – CHILD CARE AND
PROTECTION**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1216400 – Buildings

(xxi) **54-542 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY (GUYANA POLICE FORCE)**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6294 – Other

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 1/2019 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$7,962,209,485 for the period 2019-01-01 to 2019-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL 2019 – Bill No. 7/2019 published on 2019-05-10

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.7/2019 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Minister of 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, 2019, 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.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 - AFFIRMATION OF THE PETROLEUM (EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION) (TAX LAWS) (REPSOL EXPLORACION GUYANA S.A. (FORMERLY KNOWN AS REPSOL EXPLORACIÓN S.A.), TULLOW GUYANA B.V. AND TOTAL E&P GUYANA BV) ORDER 2019 – NO. 16 OF 2019

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1986, Chapter 65:04, affirms the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Repsol Exploracion Guyana S.A. (formerly known as Repsol Exploración S.A.), Tullow Guyana B.V. and Total E&P Guyana BV) Order 2019 – No. 16 of 2019 which was made on 2nd May, 2019, under Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1986, Chapter 65:01 and published in an Extra Ordinary copy of the Official Gazette dated 16th May, 2019.

(Notice Paper No. 185 (M 132 Govt. 71) published on 2019-05-17)

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - AFFIRMATION OF THE PETROLEUM (EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION) (TAX LAWS) (ESSO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION GUYANA LIMITED, CATALEYA ENERGY LIMITED (FORMERLY RATIO ENERGY LIMITED), RATIO GUYANA LIMITED AND HESS GUYANA (BLOCK B) EXPLORATION LIMITED) ORDER 2019 – NO. 17 OF 2019

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1986, Chapter 65:04, affirms the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited, Cataleya Energy Limited (formerly Ratio Energy

Limited), Ratio Guyana Limited and Hess Guyana (Block B) Order 2019 – No. 17 of 2019 which was made on 2nd May, 2019, under Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act 1986, Chapter 65:01 and published in an Extra Ordinary copy of the Official Gazette dated 16th May, 2019.

(Notice Paper No. 186 (M 133 Govt. 72) published on 2019-05-17)

The motion was then put and carried.

INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister extended a Happy 53rd Independence Anniversary to the Speaker, Clerk of the National Assembly, Staff of the Parliament Office and to the Nation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.32 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed

.....
HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

23rd May, 2019.