

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2020-2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON FRIDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**  
**IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,**  
**LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)**

**Speaker (1)**

\*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (38)**

**Peoples Progressive Party Civic (38)**

**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, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

**Senior Ministers (17)**

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. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

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

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**\*Non-Elected Member**

2.

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

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**

**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. (Absent)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.

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

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P. (Absent)

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P. (Absent)

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

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P. (Absent)

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P. (Absent)

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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### **COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.13 p.m.

### **PRAYERS**

The Clerk led in Prayers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

#### **TREATMENT OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

“Late last evening I received an email containing a letter re. Treatment of Opposition Members of Parliament from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, making a number of serious allegations. He declared that he and other Hon. Members were locked out on allegations of being instructed by the Speaker. He also made several other allegations against the Speaker. These will be dealt with subsequently; he calls for an apology.

He asserts “We understand that they were acting upon your instructions”, when referring to the alleged “Treatment of Opposition Members of Parliament by members of the Guyana Police Force. I am disheartened, disappointed but not distressed, that the Honourable Member, holding such an important title in the National Assembly, while being a practicing Attorney-at-Law in Guyana would intentionally traverse this route of basing allegations on mere hearsay. Further, not only is he an Attorney-at-Law but has been a Member of the said House for over ten (10) years.

To make such irresponsible and damning allegations against the Speaker of the National Assembly is highly condemnable. It ought to be within his basic knowledge that not only is his assertions based on hearsay, but also, that the Speaker of the National Assembly has no jurisdiction over the operations of the Guyana Police Force.

6.

Further, his allegations of alleged 'Orders' by the Speaker simultaneously while he is presiding over the house is ludicrous.

I add that the allegations of the Honourable Members being locked out and shut-in warrants a response. The 18<sup>th</sup> Sitting began with A Partnership for National Unity & Alliance for Change Members in the House. I note that the Honourable Vincent Henry was the last to leave. I also note Members from all sides partaking in the fare in the Members of Parliament lounge.

In addition, Members of the APNU-AFC greeted H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali with much enthusiasm and loudness. What happened outside the compound of the Arthur Chung Conference Centre remains a matter for inquiry and the police”.

#### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:  
Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2021.

(Circulated)

#### **MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2021 at the Sitting of the National Assembly on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

**(Notice Paper No. 54 (M19 Govt 14) published on 2021-02-05)**

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7.

The motion was put and carried.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

## **MOTION**

## **BUDGET FOR 2021**

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2021.

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2021 of the total sum of \$353,833,612,000 excluding \$29,247,746,000 which is chargeable by law (See Appendix).

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance read the Budget Speech.

## **Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seerai, M.P.**

At 4.59 p.m. the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

## **Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 5.07 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

8.

The motion was then proposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

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

**Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.**