

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 32ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON MONDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 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 (Absent)

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

***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 (Virtual Participation)

*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. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the
Ministry of Housing and Water

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. Warren K.E. McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

/...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
(Absent – on leave)

*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture
(Absent- on leave)

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, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Virtual Participation)

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. (Virtual Participation)

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

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Virtual Participation)

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P. (Virtual Participation)

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. (Virtual Participation)

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) (Virtual Participation)

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

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 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. WELCOME OF MEMBERS

“Hon. Members, I welcome you back as we convene for this first Sitting of our second year of the 12th Parliament of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Our last year was one with many innovative actions which challenged our skills in getting through the work for the people. Nevertheless, the output of that Session, in my view, was very satisfactory”.

2. INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS

“Hon. Members, during the recess, I, along with the Clerk and the International Affairs Officer, was involved in many international parliamentary events. We participated in the International Parliamentary Union, Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament The World Trade Organization’s Public Forum, The Eighteenth Plenary of ParlAmericas, where the Hon Prime Minister made a presentation, although we were not the present physically and the IPU 143rd Assembly.

The declarations from all these very important deliberations are being circulated for your information and guidance. I had other international engagements aimed at establishing closer links, collaboration, and possible formal relations with the Legislative Council of French Guyana. I met with the Lok Sabha Speaker of India, Hon. Om Birla, and we discussed the benefits of both our Parliaments working together. I also met with H.E. Speaker Sakr Gobash of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates and the National People’s Council of China”.

6.

3. REPORTS PRESENTED

“During the recess, six Reports were presented to me. These were:

1. Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries/Departments/Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2020;
2. Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on the COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Voucher Programme;
3. Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on the procurement, storage, and distribution of the COVID-19 Supplies;
4. Follow-up Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on a review of the Old Age Pension Programme in Guyana;
5. Annual Reports of the Ethnic Relations Commission for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020;
6. Final Report of Recommendations and Concerns of the Ethnic Relations Commission for the period 2018 – 2021”.

4. RELOCATION OF THE PARLIAMENT OFFICE

“Hon. Members, some of you may be aware that the Parliament Office was relocated to the building, which was occupied by the Public Procurement Commission, New Garden Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, for almost two months during the recess due to the removal of asbestos from the ceiling of the western wing of the Public Buildings. That process has been concluded and that the Office is fully functional again at the Public Buildings”.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- (i) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries/Departments/Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

/...7

7.

- (ii) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on the COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Voucher Programme.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on the procurement, storage and distribution of the COVID-19 supplies.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Follow-Up Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General on a review of the Old Age Pension Programme in Guyana.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

- (i) Annual Reports of the Ombudsman for the years 2019 and 2020.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Reports of the Ethnic Relations Commission for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Final Report of Recommendations and Concerns of the Ethnic Relations Commission for the period 2018-2020.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Eighth and Ninth Annual Reports of the Women and Gender Equality Commission for the years 2019 to 2021.

(Circulated)

8.

- (v) Annual Reports of the Rights of the Child Commission for the years 2017 and 2018.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Public Works:

- (i) Audited Financial Statements of the Demerara Harbour Bridge Corporation for the years ended 31st December, 2015 to 2017.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority for the years ended 31st December, 2017 and 2018.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Audited Financial Statements of the Berbice Bridge Company Inc. for the years ending 31st December, 2019 and 2020.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Annal Reports of the Berbice Bridge Company Inc. for the years 2019 and 2020.

(Circulated)

- (v) Annual Reports of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation for the years 2016 to 2020.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Audited Financial Statements of the Transport and Harbours Department for the years ended 31st December, 2008 and 2009.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:

- (i) Mid-Year Report 2021.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2021 – No. 29 of 2021.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2021 – No. 30 of 2021.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Amendatory Contract No. 1 signed on August 25, 2021, in relation to the Loan Contract No. 3798/BL-GY signed on February 21, 2017, between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the execution of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Program. The purpose of this Amendatory Contract is to amend the following: Sections 4:06 (a), 4:07 (c), 4:09 (a) and 4:09 (c) of the Special Conditions of the Loan Contract No. 3798/BL-GY; as well as Paragraphs 2.02, 2.03, 2.4, 3.01, 4.02 (b), and 4.04 of the Annex of the said Loan Contract.

(Circulated)

- (v) Dollar Credit Line Agreement dated September 29, 2021, between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Export-Import Bank of India for a sum of US\$7,290,000. The purpose of this Credit Agreement is to finance the procurement and installation of thirty thousand (30,000) Solar Home Lighting Systems in the Hinterland communities.

(Circulated)

10.

(vi) Annual Reports of the Financial Intelligence Unit for the years 2019 and 2020.

(Circulated)

(vii) Financial Paper No. 3/2021 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$5,112,355,210 for the period 2021-07-22 to 2021-12-09.

(Circulated)

(viii) Financial Paper No. 4/2021 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$21,477,833,982 for the period ending 2021-12-31.

(Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Health:

The Public Health (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021 – No. 10 of 2021.

(Circulated)

(6) By the Minister of Agriculture:

(i) Audited Financial Statements of the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority for the period ended 18th November, 2013 to 31st December, 2013 and for the year ended 31st December, 2014.

(Circulated)

(ii) Audited Financial Statements of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute for the years ended 31st December, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

(Circulated)

(iii) Audited Financial Statements of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemical Control Board for the years ended 31st December, 2018 and 2019.

(Circulated)

11.

- (iv) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Marketing Corporation for the years ended 31st December, 2017 and 2018.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. DOMESTIC COMPONENT OF BORROWING IN BUDGET 2020

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with
Responsibility for Finance

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the amount, by source, of the domestic component of the borrowing that was projected in Budget 2020?
2. With respect to (1), can the Honourable Minister provide the latest estimate of the amount, by source, for year ended December 31, 2020?

(Notice Paper No. 81 (Q56 Opp.56) published on 2021-08-05)

ANSWERS

1. "See Budget Speech 2020.
2. See Budget Speech 2020."

2. VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS IN REGIONS #1-10

Member Asking: Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (A) Can the Honourable Minister inform the House of the number & percentage of students by gender in Regions (1-10) that attended online classes in the September to December 2020 term and the January to March 2021 term, for nursery, primary and secondary schools?

12.

(B) Can the Honourable Minister also inform the House of the number and percentage of students by gender in (A) that attended classes online 50% of the time and 75% of the time in Regions (1-10) for nursery, primary and secondary schools?

(C) Can the Honourable Minister further inform the House of the number of students that were required to attend online classes for the last two terms by gender in regions (1-10), for nursery, primary and secondary schools?

(Notice Paper No. 94 (Q68 Opp.68) published on 2021-08-03)

ANSWERS

See **Appendix (1)** for answers to the questions above.

3. PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS IN REGIONS #1-10

Member Asking: **Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

(A) Can the Honourable Minister inform the House of the percentage & number of students by gender in Regions (1-10) that attended classes, face to face, in the September to December 2020 term and the January to March 2021 term, for primary and secondary schools?

(B) Can the Honourable Minister also inform the House of the number of students that were required to attend classes face to face for the last two terms by gender in Regions (1-10), for primary and secondary schools?

(C) Can the Honourable Minister further inform the House of the number & percentage of students by gender in (A) that attended classes face to face 50% and 75% of the time in regions (1-10), for primary and secondary schools?

(Notice Paper No. 95 (Q69 Opp.69) published on 2021-08-03)

ANSWERS

See **Appendix (2)** for answers to the questions above.

4. REFITTING OF SCHOOLS OR CLASSROOMS TO DELIVER VIRTUAL CLASSES

Member Asking: **Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

(A) Can the Honourable Minister inform the House whether any schools/classrooms were refitted over the last two terms, September 2020 - March 2021, by the Ministry of Education to deliver online classes?

(B) If yes, please list the name of the schools and Region/s in which this was done and the number of students those schools serve.

(Notice Paper No. 96 (Q70 Opp.70) published on 2021-08-03)

ANSWERS

See **Appendix (3)** for answers to the questions above.

5. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS IN REGIONS #1-10

Member Asking: **Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

(A) Can the Honourable Minister inform the House what direct support (free data, devices, electricity cost, allowances, or training, etc.) was given to Teachers delivering online classes from their homes over the last two terms in Regions (1-10) for nursery, primary and secondary schools?

14.

(B) Please state whether anywhere in Budgets 2020 and 2021 addressed direct support for Teachers who delivered online classes from their homes using their personal computers, data, and electricity, given that both Budgets were delivered amidst the COVID-19 pandemic?

(Notice Paper No. 97 (Q71 Opp.71) published on 2021-08-05)

ANSWERS

See **Appendix (4)** for answers to the questions above.

6. ABSENTEES FROM VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL CLASSES IN REGIONS #1-10

Member Asking: Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

(A) Can the Honourable Minister inform the House how many students (number & percentage) by gender in Regions (1-10) did not attend online classes but were required to, over the last two terms for nursery, primary and secondary schools?

(B) Can the Honourable Minister further inform the House how many students (number & percentage) by gender in Regions (1-10) did not attend face to face classes but were required to, over the last two terms, for primary and secondary schools?

(Notice Paper No. 98 (Q72 Opp.72) published on 2021-08-05)

ANSWERS

A) “In Notice 94, questions A & C, the number required and the number of learners that attend virtual classes were submitted. Therefore, to answer the above question, please refer to pages 4-5 & pages 1-2 respectively”.

B) Primary Level

“No learner made any attendance because they were not required to attend face to face classes for the period: Sept-Dec 2020 and Jan-March 2021 which was in keeping with the gazetted order issued by the Ministry of Health.

Secondary Level

In Notice Paper 95, questions A & B, the number of learners who attended and the number required to attend face to face classes were submitted. Therefore, to answer the above questions, please refer to pages 6 & 7”.

7. FUNDING FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Budget 2021 has an appropriated sum of \$6B under "Capital Expenditure" for Infrastructural Development and Buildings (**Budget Estimate Volume 3, profile 225**). The sum of \$1,254,187B under "Current Expenditure" for "Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organizations" to Central Housing and Planning Authority for Housing Development and Management (**Budget Estimate Volume 1, page 599**). In an online reporting by the Department of Public Information, dated March 16, 2021, "\$13.9B in contracts was signed for housing development."

Can the Honourable Minister state where the shortfall of \$7.9B was funded from for the awarding of some \$13.9B in contracts to commence infrastructural works and construction of housing units in Regions 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively?

(Notice Paper No. 99 (Q73 Opp.73) published on 2021-08-05)

ANSWER

“A combination of Government subvention and the Central Housing and Planning Authority housing fund”.

8. **DEATH OF MR. SEWDIAL PERSAUD WHILE IN POLICE CUSTODY ON 17TH JUNE, 2021**

Member Asking: Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

The death of Mr. Sewdial Persaud, 45, of Number 58 Village, Corentyne, Berbice, while in police custody on 17th June, 2021, has triggered serious concerns and calls for justice by his family and members of the community in which Mr. Persaud resided.

- 1) Could the Honourable Minister provide details related to the incident involving Mr. Persaud, which led to the intervention of the Guyana Police Force?
- 2) Could the Hon. Minister say whether all required Standard Operations Procedures were followed before, during and after the arrest of Mr. Persaud?
- 3) Can the Hon. Minister say what was the cause of death of Mr. Persaud? Is there a medical report? If yes, can it be made available to this House?
- 4) Can the Hon. Minister indicate whether this matter was referred to any investigating body or authority? If yes, can the Minister provide the House with the findings of such investigation?

(Notice Paper No. 129 (Q99 Opp.99) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWERS

- 1) “Sewdial Persaud was arrested and placed in custody on 17th June, 2021 after reports by his reputed wife of verbal and physical abuse and threats to commit suicide by ingesting poison.
- 2) Basic Standing and Operating Procedures were followed before, during and after the arrest of Mr. Persaud.

17.

- 3) The cause of death of Mr. Persaud has been given as asphyxiation due to hanging.
- 4) The death of Mr. Sewdial Persaud was investigated by the Office of Professional Responsibility which recommended an inquest be held. The file on this matter has been referred to the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)”.

9. PROTOCOLS FOR SUSPECTS WHILE IN CUSTODY AT POLICE STATIONS

Member Asking: Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Honourable Minister indicate what protocols are in place when a suspect is found dead while in police custody at police stations across Guyana?

(Notice Paper No. 130 (Q100 Opp.100) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“Standing Order 108, which governs the operation of the Office of Professional Responsibility gives the Commissioner of Police the authority to direct the OPR to investigate the death of persons while in Police Custody”.

10. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LUSIGNAN PRISON

Member Asking: Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

It has been reported in the Guyana Chronicle on June 17, 2021, that the Ministry of Home Affairs signed a 1.2-billion-dollar contract for the reconstruction of the Lusignan Prison under the Guyana Prison Service.

- 1) Can the Honourable Minister state whether there was a public bidding process for the award of the contract? If yes, when, and where?
- 2) Can the Hon. Minister state whether the awardee/s was/were prequalified?

18.

- 3) Can the Hon. Minister provide the name of the Contractor(s) who was/were awarded the contract? Further, can the Minister state what experience this/these company/s has/have in the construction or reconstruction of Prisons?
- 4) Regarding (1) and (2), could the Hon. Minister state which entity was responsible for the evaluation and recommendation of the awards of the contracts?
- 5) Can the Hon. Minister state what criteria was used in the pre-qualification and qualification process?
- 6) Can the Hon. Minister state whether the Principal/s of any of the companies, which were awarded contracts, have any pending litigation against the Government of Guyana, or whether the Government of Guyana has any pending litigation against the Principal/s of these companies?

(Notice Paper No. 131 (Q101 Opp.101) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWERS

- 1) “Yes, there was a public bidding process for the award of the contract. Bids were advertised in Guyana Chronicle, Kaieteur News and Stabroek News from the period April 4 to April 26, 2021 and opened on April 29, 2021 at the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board.
- 2) No, the Awardees were not prequalified as the project was publicly tendered.
- 3) The name of the Contractors awarded the contract are:
Mohamed’s Enterprise – Lot 1
Construction Cobra Eireli and M&P Investment Inc. – Lot 2
Nabi Construction Inc. – Lot 3
M&P Investment and Nabi Construction Inc. worked on the construction of Prisons with the Guyana Prison Service. M&P Investment has worked on Prison Construction Project in Guyana and its Brazilian Joint Venture Partner has worked on similar projects overseas.

19.

- 4) The Evaluation of the project was done by an evaluation committee appointed by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB), and it is the Board which made the recommendation of the awards of the contracts. The Ministry was not a part of the committee”.

11. COMMUNITY POLICING GROUPS

Member Asking: **Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Home Affairs**

In a report in the Guyana Chronicle dated March 10, 2021, with the caption “Community Policing Groups membership climbs rapidly under new management” it was stated that several new groups have been formed.

- 1) Could the Honourable Minister provide the criteria which were utilised in the selection of members of the Community Policing Groups (CPG’s)?
- 2) Could the Hon. Minister say whether the establishment of new groups is related to the upsurge in crime being witnessed in all Regions of Guyana?
- 3) Can the Hon. Minister state in which communities are the newly Community Policing Groups established?

(Notice Paper No. 132 (Q102 Opp.102) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWERS

- 1) “Voluntary residents who are skeptical of the rise in Crime within their Communities
Individuals who are concerned of security in their community.
Background checks, criminal background check. All individuals must have a clean criminal record.
- 2) No

20.

3) Newly Community Policing Groups were established in the following Regions/Communities.

Region 1

1. Wauna
2. Arukamai
3. Imbertero
4. Powaikuro
5. RedHill
6. Arakaka
7. Kabana
8. Wallaba
9. Kam Watta
10. Mora
11. Haimara-Cabra
12. Waramuri
13. Rincon
14. Karaburi
15. Parakesse
16. Port Kaituma
17. Siparuta
18. Moruca
19. White Water
20. Kumaka
21. Tobago
22. Falls Top
23. 4 Miles
24. Citrus Grove
25. Oronoque

Region 2

- 26. Affiance
- 27. Hibernia

Region 3

- 28. Clay Brick Road
- 29. Standleytown/Middlesex
- 30. La Grange
- 31. Goed Fortuin
- 32. Onderneeming
- 33. Lust-En-Rust (Interim Group)
- 34. Crane Phase 1
- 35. Crane Phase 2
- 36. Coglan Dam
- 37. Bella Dam
- 38. Lenora
- 39. Uitvlugt Pasture
- 40. Stewartville Sara Lodge
- 41. Ocean View
- 42. Zeeburg/DeWilliam
- 43. MM2 West
- 44. Tuschen
- 45. Greenwich Park
- 46. Bonsika Creek
- 47. Anna Catherina
- 48. Hague Brickdam
- 49. Parika South
- 50. CI South
- 51. Santa Aratack

22.

- 52. Vive-La-Force
- 53. Vriesland
- 54. Sisters Village
- 55. Good Intent
- 56. Bellwest Phase 1
- 57. Canal #1
- 58. Bagotville

Region 4

- 59. Grove
- 60. Craig
- 61. Swan
- 62. U.G Road
- 63. South Turkeyen
- 64. North Ruimveldt
- 65. Section K&J Campbellville
- 66. Alberttown/Queenstown
- 67. Lusignan Pasture
- 68. Lusignan Central
- 69. Courbane Park
- 70. Annandale West
- 71. Annandale Marshon
- 72. Annandale North
- 73. Vigilance
- 74. Bladenhall South
- 75. Enterprise
- 76. Nonpariel
- 77. Mon-Repos South
- 78. Mon-Repos Richardville

23.

- 79. Block 8 Phase 1
- 80. Block 8 Phase 2
- 81. Triumph/Agriculture Road
- 82. Pigeon Island
- 83. La Bonne Intention
- 84. Chateau Margot
- 85. Montrose
- 86. Success
- 87. Better Hope North
- 88. Better Hope South
- 89. Mon Repos South
- 90. Foulis Concerned Citizen
- 91. Enmore Concerned Citizen
- 92. Paradise
- 93. Belfield/ Victoria
- 94. Davidrose/Lancaster
- 95. Moblissa South

Region 5

- 96. Abary
- 97. Dundee
- 98. Zeeland/Drill
- 99. Waterloo/Hope
- 100. Bushlot New Housing Scheme
- 101. Bath Central
- 102. Woodley Park
- 103. Zeezicht/Cotton Tree
- 104. Shieldstown
- 105. Moraikobai

Region 6

- 106. Siparuta Village
- 107. Lesbenholden
- 108. Yacasurie
- 109. Mybicury
- 110. Zambia
- 111. 60,59 and 58 Village
- 112. 65 Village
- 113. 68 Village
- 114. 70 and 71 Village
- 115. Line Path
- 116. Rampoor
- 117. 76 Housing Scheme Phase 1
- 118. 74 Village
- 119. Light Town
- 120. #2
- 122. Kilcoy North
- 123. Tain/Clifton
- 124. Baiaboo #10
- 125. Bath Mahaica
- 126. Mara/Plegtanker
- 127. Vryheid West Canjie
- 128. Seawells
- 129. Belvedere/ Guava Bush
- 130. Topoo
- 131. John's/ Letter Kenny
- 132. Ragubar Nagar
- 133. Rosehall
- 134. Orealla

Region 7

- 135. Agatash
- 136. Daagpoint
- 137. Kaburi
- 138. Rivers View
- 139. Karrau
- 140. Itaballi
- 141. Faulmouth

Region 8

- 142. Mahdia Phase 1
- 143. Mahdia Phase 2
- 144. Cambell Town
- 145. Micobie

Region 9

- 146. Toka
- 147. Karasabai
- 148. Nappi
- 149. Shulinab
- 150. Katoonarib
- 151. Sawariwau
- 152. Awaranau
- 153. Shea
- 154. Micobie
- 155. Kaudar
- 156. Achiwib
- 157. Aishalton

26.

- 158. Mawaranau
- 159. Deep South Rupununi
- 160. North & South Rupununi
- 161. South Pakaraima

Region 10

- 162. Bamia
- 163. Kwakwini
- 164. Arima
- 165. Block 42
- 166. Hururu
- 167. Kumaka
- 168. Spightland
- 169. Old England/Siberian
- 170. West Watoka
- 171. Camba City
- 172. Success Avenue
- 173. Wisroc
- 174. Rockstone
- 175. Andyville”

12. ISSUANCE OF FIREARM LICENSES TO SECURITY COMPANIES

Member Asking: **Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Home Affairs**

Can the Honourable Minister state the number of security companies that were issued with firearm licenses, since 2nd August 2020- to present?

(Notice Paper No. 133 (Q103 Opp.103) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“Sixteen (16) companies were issued with firearm licenses for the period 2nd August, 2020 to September 28, 2021.”

13. NEW BRIDGE TO LINK DIAMOND – MOCHA

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Reference to article published in the Guyana Chronicle, “New bridge to link Diamond – Mocha”, by staff writer on 12th July, 2021:

(1) Can the Honourable Minister say if consultations were done with the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils mentioned in the article about this project?

(2) Can the Hon. Minister say what form of consultation was done; if any, with the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and when was it done?

(Notice Paper No. 137 (Q107 Opp.107) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“Yes, the Mocha/Arcadia and the Little Diamond/Herstelling Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) were engaged by the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) before and during the project”.

14. ASSESSMENT/ASSESSMENTS DONE IN THE GREAT DIAMOND AREA

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Reference to article published in the Department of Public Information, “65 Great Diamond Squatters to get land”, by staff writer on 21st April, 2021:

28.

Can the Honourable Minister say what assessment(s) were done to determine that the location is best for permanent habitation, since there is an industrial plant (methane) in the area that can be considered a health risk to people?

(Notice Paper No. 138 (Q108 Opp.108) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“The location has been occupied by residents for over 30 years for which ownership documents are being processed”.

15. LAND TITLES FOR GREAT DIAMOND SQUATTERS

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Reference to article published in the Department of Public Information, “65 Great Diamond Squatters to get land”, by staff writer on 21st April, 2021:

Can the Honourable Minister say how many of the residents have received their land titles to date?

(Notice Paper No. 139 (Q109 Opp.109) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“None of the residents have received their land titles as yet as the land is being transferred from NICIL to CHPA. All surveys and preparatory works have now been completed for processing of the titles”.

16. STATUS UPDATE ON HOUSE LOTS ALLOTTED TO FOUR (4) FAMILIES IN THE PROSPECT AREA, UNDER THE COALITION GOVERNMENT

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Under the Coalition Government, house lots were allotted in the Prospect area to four (4) families living in close proximity to Demerara Distillers Limited. Can the Hon. Minister provide a status update on the house lots that were allotted to these four (4) families?

(Notice Paper No. 140 (Q110 Opp.110) published on 2021-09-22)

ANSWER

“House lots were allotted to three (3) families, who were relocated to Prospect, and they have received their allocation letters. The house lots were paid for by Demerara Distillers Limited”.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 15/2021

On behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Powers of Attorney Act.

2. DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 16/2021

On behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Act.

3. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 17/2021

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act and the Audit Act.

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 8/2021 published on 2021-06-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Police Act.
(Read a first time on 2021-06-10)

The following Member spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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.

Clause 3

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

“Deletion of Clause 3”.

Clause 3 was then deleted.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Police (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.01 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.30 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

ITEM 2 - FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 9/2021 published on 2021-06-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act.

(Read a first time on 2021-06-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

32.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.

Hon. Vincero Jordan, M.P.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 Home Affairs, the Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 11/2021 published on 2021-06-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act.

(Read a first time on 2021-06-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Vincent Henry, M.P.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P.

Presiding by Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 3.02 p.m., while Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 3.15 p.m. while the Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., continued and concluded her speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 Home Affairs, the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 4 - NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 12/2021 published on 2021-
06-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act.

(Read a first time on 2021-06-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

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

Hon. Devin Sears, M.P.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Presiding by Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 4.49 p.m., while Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 4.54 p.m. while the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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 Home Affairs, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as printed.

(ii) COMMITTEES' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 5 - OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1), every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS, the Public Accounts Committee, a Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament, was unable, owing to the dissolution of Parliament on 30th December, 2019, to conclude the work that was referred to it in that Session,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament take into account all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 28 (M14 Committee 1) published on 2021-01-06)

The Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Hon. Jermaine Figueira replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 6 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2015

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2015, be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 31 (M15 Committee 2) published on 2021-01-18)

The Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Hon. Jermaine Figueira replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 7 - OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1), every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services, a Sectoral Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament, was unable, owing to the Dissolution of Parliament on 30th December, 2019, to conclude the work during that Session,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament adopt all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 90 (M25 Committee 5) published on 2021-03-30)

The Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Human Services and Social Security replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.51 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Thursday 16th, December 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manzoor Nadir". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a dotted line.

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

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

13th, December 2021.