

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 34TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON THURSDAY, 29TH 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

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

***Non-Elected Member**

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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. 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**

Other Members (14)

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Alistair 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 (Virtual Participation)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

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.

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.

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. (Virtual Participation)

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 – Barima Waini)

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)

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 10.35 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1) LATE START OF THE SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Honourable Speaker apologised for the late start of the Sitting of the National Assembly and informed Members that it was due to technical difficulties.

2) PETITION RECEIVED FROM HON. LENOX SHUMAN, M.P., DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker informed Members of the National Assembly that at 9.40 a.m., received a Petition from the Clerk of the National Assembly but due to the late receipt he was unable to read it, hence it could not have been placed on the Order Paper for that day's Sitting.

3) CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS

The Speaker extended congratulations to the new Executive Members of the Peoples National Congress.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments):

Third Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members to the Police Service Commission.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - LOCAL CONTENT BILL 2021 – Bill No. 21/2021 published on 2021-12-15

The Minister of Natural Resources moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the implementation of local content obligations on persons engaged in petroleum operations or related activities in the petroleum sector; to prioritise Guyanese nationals and Guyanese companies in the procurement of goods and services for the enhancement of the value chain of the petroleum sector; to enable local capacity development; to provide for the investigation, supervision, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of, and participation in, local content in Guyana; to promote competitiveness and encourage the creation of related industries that will sustain the social and economic development of Guyana; and for other related matters.

(Read a first time on 2021-12-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.

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

7.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.25 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.50 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Local Content Bill 2021.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P.

Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Shurwayne Holder, M.P.

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

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

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

Hon. Mark Phillips, M.P., Prime Minister

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan

Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seerai, M.P.

At 4.15 p.m. while the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seerai, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 4.21 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan continued and concluded his speech.

8.

Thereafter, the Minister of Natural Resources replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

- (i) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

“(1) By the substitution for the definition of “Guyanese Company”, of the following –

“Guyanese company” means –

Cap 89:01

- (a) any company incorporated under the Companies Act –
- (i) which is beneficially owned by Guyanese nationals who ultimately exercise, individually or jointly, voting rights representing at least fifty-one per cent of the total issued shares of the company; and
 - (ii) that has Guyanese nationals holding at least seventy-five percent of executive and senior management positions and at least ninety percent of non-managerial and other positions; or

(b) any partnership between Guyanese nationals and a company constituted under subclause

Cap 89:02

- (a) in accordance with the Partnership Act.”

9.

(ii) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendment which was **put** and **negatived**:

“Guyanese national” means a citizen of Guyana; by birth”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 were passed as printed.

Clause 6

(i) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **negatived**:

“New Clause 6 (2) (a) Any Guyanese national or Guyanese company, whose application has been refused has the right to appeal to an independent review panel appointed by the Minister, comprising of not less than three persons, one of whom must be from civil society”.

“New Clause 6 (9) The Secretariat shall cause to be published on the website of the Ministry responsible for petroleum or any other media in wide circulation the Local Content Register, which shall be updated quarterly”.

(ii) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendment which was **put** and **carried**:

By the insertion, immediately after subclause (8), of the following -

“(9) The Secretariat shall cause the Local Content Registers to be published on the website of the Ministry responsible for petroleum or any other media of wide circulation.”.

10.

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were passed as printed.

Clause 13

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendment which was **put** and **negatived**:

“**New Clause 13 (7)** A Contractor, sub-Contractor or Licensee without the written permission of the Minister acting on the advice of the Secretariat and the Local Content Oversight Committee, shall not enter into any contract in excess of (3) three years.”

Clause 13 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 were passed as printed.

Part V

- (i) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **negatived**:

“New Heading Part V - Delete INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE replace with LOCAL CONTENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.”

New Marginal Note (Part V) - Establishment of Local Content Oversight Committee”.

- (ii) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendment which were **put** and **carried**:

“By the substitution for the words “Inter-Agency Committee” and Inter-agency Advisory Committee” of the words “Local Content Advisory Committee”, wherever it appears.”

Part V was then passed as amended.

Clause 20

- (i) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **negatived**:

Clause 20 (1) – “There is to be established a committee to be known as the Local Content Oversight Committee”.

Clause 20 (2) - “The Committee shall consist of not than seven members appointed by the President: after nominations from the agencies adumbrated in 20 (3) are deliberated on by the Committee of Appointments of the National Assembly”.

Clause 20 (3) - “The Members appointed to the Committee shall be selected from the following agencies:

- (a) Office of the President
- (b) Ministry of Labour
- (c) Private Sector Commission
- (d) National Toshias Council
- (e) Guyana Bar Association
- (f) Labour Union Representative
- (g) Parliamentary Opposition
- (h) Guyana Association of Professional Engineers
- (i) Transparency International Guyana Inc.
- (j) Representative from local Petroleum Organisations

12.

- (ii) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

“In subclause (3), -

- (a) in paragraph (n), by the deletion of the word “and”;
- (b) in paragraph (o), by the substitution for the full stop of a semi-colon;
- (c) By the insertion, immediately after paragraph (o), of the following –
 - “(p) National Toshaos Council;
 - (q) Guyana Bar Association
 - (r) Parliamentary Opposition; and
 - (s) Representative from local Petroleum Organisations.”

- (iii) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendment which was **put** and **negatived**:

Clause 20 (4) - “The President shall appoint a Chairperson of the Committee from amongst the members of the Committee”.

- (iv) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendment which was **put** and **carried**:

“In subclause (4), by deletion of the words “and a Vice Chairperson”

- (v) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendment which was **put** and **negatived**:

“Clause 20 (4) (a) - “A Vice Chairperson of the committee shall be elected at the first meeting of the Committee”.

13.

(vi) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendment which was **put** and **carried**:

By insertion, immediately after subclause (4), of the following –

“(5) A Vice Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of the Committee.”.

(vii) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendment which was **put** and **negatived**:

“Clause 20 (5) - “The members of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years, which term may be renewed by the President”.

(viii) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

“By the renumbering of subclauses (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (11) to subclause (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12)”.

(ix) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **negatived**:

“Clause 20 (7) - “The function of the Committee is to provide oversight of the Secretariat in the discharge of its functions and to provide the Minister with recommendations”.

Clause 20 (8) - “The Committee may determine and document its own procedure for discharging its functions”.

(x) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

“In the new subclause (8), by the insertion, immediately after the word “capacity”, of the words “and to provide the Minister with recommendations.”.

14.

In the new subclause (9), by the insertion immediately after the word “determine”, of the words “and document”.”

Clause 20 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 21 and 22 were passed as printed.

Clause 23

The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendment which was **put** and **carried**:

“In subclause (3)(g), by the insertion, immediately after the words “summary conviction to a”, of words “fine of”.”

Clause 23 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 24, 25 and 26 were passed as printed.

The First Schedule

- (i) Mr. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Mr. Shurwayne Holder, M.P., moved the following amendments which were **put** and **negatived**:

Sectors and Sub-Sector for Guyanese Businesses	End of 2022
1. Rental of Office	100%
2. Accommodation Services (apartments and houses)	100%
4. Surveying	90%
7. Construction Work for Building – onshore	100%
8. Structural Fabrication (cutting, bending, and assembling of steel products) – onshore	75%
9. Waste Management (disposal, and waste transport services) – Non-hazardous Waste	100%
10. Waste Management (disposal, and waste transport services) – Hazardous Waste	60%
11. Storage Services (warehousing)	100%
12. Janitorial and Laundry Services	100%
13. Catering Services	100%
21. Pest Control Extermination Services	100%

26. Transportation Services	
a. Trucking	100%
b. Ground Transportation – movement of personnel	100%
29. Industrial Cleaning Services – onshore	100%
30. Security Services	100%
34. Local Insurance Services	100%
35. Accounting Services	90%
36. Local Legal Services	100%
39. Engineering and Machining	
a. Engineering	75%
b. Machining	5%
40. Local Marketing and Advertising Services (public relations)	100%

(ii) The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

(1) “In paragraph 34, by the substitution for the words “90%”, of the words “100%”.

(2) In paragraph 35 –

(a) by the insertion, immediately before the words “Accounting Services”, of the word “Local”; and

(b) by the substitution for the words “20%, of the words “90%”.”

The First Schedule was then passed as amended.

The Second Schedule

The Minister of Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

(1) “By the substitution for the headnote “1. Employment Sub-Plans”, of the headnote “Employment Sub-Plan”.

16.

(2) In paragraph (1)(b)(iii) of the Employment Sub-Plan, by the insertion, immediately after the words “Guyanese nationals”, of the words, “including equal remuneration”.

(3) In clause (1)(a)(iii) of the Procurement Sub-Plan, by the renumbering of subclauses (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10), to subclauses (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee), (ff), and (gg).”

The Second Schedule was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Local Content Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.49 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.59 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

At 7.00 p.m., the Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked that the Natural Resource Fund Bill 2021 be sent to a Special Select Committee.

ITEM 2 - NATURAL RESOURCE FUND BILL 2021 – Bill No. 20/2021 published on 2021-12-15

While the Senior Minister in the Office the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill, the Members of the A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change, created grave disorder in the Assembly:

17.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish the Natural Resource Fund to manage the natural resource wealth of Guyana for the present and future benefit of the people and for the sustainable development of the country, and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2021-12-16)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.05 p.m., the Speaker suspended the Sitting due to gross disorder by Members of the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance for Change.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.05 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Natural Resource Fund Bill 2021.

At 8.10 p.m., while the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance continued his speech, some Members of the APNU/AFC removed the Mace from the Speaker's table and took it out of the Chamber.

At 8.15 p.m., a replacement Mace was used to continue and conclude the Sitting.

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip moved that the question be put and that the Bill be read for a second time.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 47 were passed as printed.

The First and Second Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office the President with Responsibility for Finance, the Natural Resource Fund Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**WITHDRAWAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE A PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIONAL
UNITY AND ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE**

At 8.29 p.m., the Members of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change withdrew from the Chamber.

ITEM 3 - FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT)
BILL 2021 – Bill No. 17/2021 published on 2021-12-10

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 2021-12-13)

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

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office the President with Responsibility for Finance 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 to 6 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office the President with Responsibility for Finance, the Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as printed.

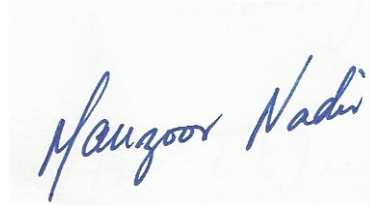
NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

The Prime Minister extended New Year's Greetings to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Members of Parliament, Clerk of the National Assembly, staff of the Parliament Office, the media, Members of the Guyana Police Force, and the staff of the Arthur Chung's Conference Centre. The Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker and the Speaker of the National Assembly joined the Prime Minister in extending New Year's Greetings.

20.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.57 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manzoor Nadi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

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

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

29th, December 2021.