

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 36TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2022) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2022
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 (Virtual Participation)

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 – Barima/Waini), 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 (Virtual Participation)

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

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***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 (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.

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

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

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)

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

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

Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprashad, 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) (Virtual Participation)

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

5.

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 2.28 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1) **LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE HON. JOSEPH HARMON, M.P., LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

The Honourable Speaker informed Members of the National Assembly that at 11.40 a.m., he received a letter from Hon. Joseph Harmon, M.P., Leader of the Opposition informing him that he would be resigning as Leader of the Opposition with immediate effect.

2) **LATE COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Speaker apologized to Members of the National Assembly for the late commencement of the Sitting.

3) **INACCURATE AND DISTORTED COMMENTS MADE BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS**

“Hon Members, of late I have been aware of several inaccurate and distorted comments inside the House and outside of the Assembly, these being made by Hon Members, many of whom should know better. Many of these inaccurate and distorted comments relate to the issue of questions and motion.

I use this opportunity to outline the process of how Questions and Motions qualify for the Order Paper.

When questions and motions are received by the Clerk of the National Assembly, they are read to ensure that they are in keeping with Standing Order No. 20 and Standing Order No. 26, respectively.

If in the opinion of the Clerk questions and motions are in, or out of order, he would advise the Speaker accordingly. However, under the Standing Orders, the Speaker of the National Assembly has the sole authority to determine the admissibility/inadmissibility of questions and motions.

Further, if a question or motion is disallowed by the Speaker, his decision is conveyed to the member by the Clerk of the National Assembly. The Speaker is not required, under the Standing Orders, to give reasons for disallowing questions and motions.

After a question or motion is approved by the Speaker, the member is notified and thereafter the question or motion is published on Notice Paper.

A Question is published on Notice Paper 21 clear days before it is placed on the Order Paper. A Government Motion is published on Notice Paper 6 clear days before it is placed on the Order Paper. Notwithstanding, Standing Order 28(2) states, "With the consent of the Speaker, a Government motion may be placed upon the Order Paper for the Sitting of the day following that on which notice was given to the Clerk". A Private Member's motion is published on Notice Paper 12 clear days before it is placed on the Order Paper".

The following is a Summary of Private Members' Motions and Questions submitted to the Clerk of the National Assembly during the present Twelfth Parliament:

Private Members' Motions

Number of Motions Received by the Parliament Office	Number of Motions approved by the Speaker of the National Assembly	Number of Motions disallowed by the Speaker of the National Assembly	Number of Motions on the Order Paper	Number of Motions to be published on Notice Papers
12	6	6	3	1

Private Members' Questions on Notice

Number Questions Received by the Parliament Office	Number of Questions approved with/without amendments by the Speaker of the National Assembly	Number of Questions disallowed by the Speaker of the National Assembly
469	412	57

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:
 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures of Guyana for the financial year 2022.

(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 2022 at the Sitting of the National Assembly on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022.

(Notice Paper No. 167 (M36 Govt 23) published on 2022-01-24)

The motion was put and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2022

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 2022.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2022 of the total sum of \$277,431,968,000 excluding \$23,287,043,000 which is chargeable by law (See Appendix).

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

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.50 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Monday, 30th January, 2022.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

26th January, 2022.