

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 46TH 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, 13TH APRIL, 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**

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**

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. (Virtual Participation)

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) (31)

Hon. Aubrey Norton M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

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

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

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

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

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

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

Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P.

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

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

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

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

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

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

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

Mr. Aubrey Norton

“Hon. Members, following the resignation of Mr. Joseph Harmon on 15th March, 2022, and my call upon the Representative of the List from the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) List of Candidates, I have been informed that the name of Mr. Aubrey Norton was extracted from the List and that Mr. Aubrey Norton was, on 6th April, 2022, declared by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

Before Mr. Norton can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, he will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the National Assembly, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution”.

As Mr. Norton was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

Ms. Volda Lawrence

“Hon. Members, following the resignation of Dr. Nicolette Odella Henry on 30th March, 2022, and my call upon the Representative of the List from the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) List of Candidates, I have been informed that the name of Ms. Volda Lawrence was extracted from the List and that Ms. Lawrence was, on 6th April, 2022, declared by the Guyana Elections Commission, be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

6.

Before Ms. Lawrence can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, she will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the National Assembly, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution”.

As Ms. Lawrence was present, the oath was administered to her by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) Welcome to New Members

The Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and himself, welcomed Mr. Aubrey Norton and Ms. Volda Lawrence to the Assembly and extended best wishes to them for a long and successful stay.

(2) Virtual Participation and Get Well Wishes

The Speaker informed members that Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, would be joining the Sitting virtually. The Speaker also offered prayers and asked the House to do same, since most of the family of the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly are stricken with the Covid-19, but they are in good spirits.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairperson of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 6th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Tuesday, 1st March, 2022.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Prime Minister:

Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission for the year 2020.

(Circulated)

7.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Women and Gender Equality Commission Five Year Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026.

(Circulated)

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

Treasury Memorandum Pursuant to Resolution No. 25/2021 dated December 13, 2021, of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2015.

(Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Public Works:

Audited Financial Statements of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(6) By the Minister of Health:

The Public Health (Coronavirus) (No. 3) Regulations 2022 – No. 8 of 2022.

(Circulated)

(7) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the year ended 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

8.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

(1) By Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee):

Report of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to the Appointment of Members to the Public Procurement Commission.

(Circulated)

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

Fourth Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members to the Women & Gender Equality Commission.

(Circulated)

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

Fifth Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of a Director to the Board of the Natural Resource Fund and a Member to the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee in keeping with the Natural Resource Fund Act No. 19 of 2021.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. FIRE AT THE BRICKDAM POLICE STATION

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”.

1. Can the Hon. Minister indicate the causes, conditions and circumstances surrounding the aforementioned fire and how did the government manage the situation as it unfolded and its aftermath?

9.

2. Can the Minister provide a detailed explanation as to why the fire at the Brickdam Station was not contained, having regard to the fact that the Central Fire Station is located a mere two minutes away from the Brickdam Police Station?

(Notice Paper No. 159 (Q124 Opp.124) published on 2022-01-19)

ANSWERS

1. “The Brickdam Police Station Fire was an act of arson, this was conclusive after the Guyana Fire Service would have carefully scrutinized the fire scene and meticulously analyzed all data, which was collected from the fire scene.
2. Among some of the reasons why the Guyana Fire Service was unable to contain the fire to the building of origin includes:
 - Gaining access to the compound which was due to rapid evacuation of occupants (ranks and personnel).
 - Vehicles and equipment being removed from the compound, impeding access because there was only one entrance and exit. (An exit needs to be provided)
 - Age, configuration, and figure load of the building.
 - The wind allowance.
 - Initially, failing to access open source of water”.

2. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AT THE BRICKDAM POLICE STATION

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

“It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Hon Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”.

Can the Minister state the number of working fire extinguishers that were in place at the Brickdam Police Station prior to the 3rd October, 2021, and the location of each fire extinguisher?

(Notice Paper No. 160 (Q125 Opp.125) published on 2022-01-19)

ANSWER

“There were a few Fire Extinguishers which were operable at the Brickdam Police Station, however a few needed servicing. There was sufficient Fire Extinguishers on the premises, which could have extinguished fires in their incipient stages”.

3. PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

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

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

“It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Hon Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”.

- A. Can the Minister indicate whether an advisory has been issued under his hand or under his directives to ensure that all Public Buildings are fully equipped with fire extinguishers, an identified area to serve as muster point, regular fire drills, the installation of sprinkler systems? If yes, can the Minister indicate the date such advisory was issued and provide to the house a copy of any such advisory.
- B. Can the Minister indicate whether consideration has been given to establishing a mechanism to examine all aspects related to fire safety, review of existing systems inclusive of building codes, an immediate assessment of all response mechanisms, remedial actions as well as a review of the available equipment and the human resource capacity?
- C. If yes, can the Minister indicate the findings made thus far, the composition of any such team, the criteria used in selecting the members of the review team, the date of commencement of the assessment and the timeline for the submission of any report on the aforesaid?

(Notice Paper No. 161 (Q126 Opp.126) published on 2022-01-19)

ANSWERS

- A. “Fire Prevention inspections are being conducted throughout the country by the Guyana Fire Service. These inspections would target both Public and private occupancies. However, during such inspections recommendations are penned to the occupants of the buildings to install Smoke Detectors, Fire Extinguishers, construct Fire emergency plans and designate an appropriate area, away from the respective premises (Building) upwind as assembly points.
- B. Standards were developed for the establishing and enforcement as it relates to building construction in Guyana. Such standards for buildings are to ensure that buildings are safe and have means of escape and ample fire emergency systems in place. The rational is to have building practitioners, consultants, and homeowners to keep within the framework of the mentioned regulations. However, we do not have a standardized building codes in Guyana, but a proposal was prepared and sent to the Office of the President last year for perusal and approval.
- C. The National Fire Advisory Board, which comprise nine (9) appointed members, was given the responsibility to review and further implement standards and regulations to suit our local conditions. The board convened April last and has been active ever since. The composition of the Fire Advisory Board saw members coming from the Guyana Fire Service, Central Housing and Planning Authority, Human Service and Social Security, Mayor and City Council, Guyana Water Inc., and the Environmental Protection Agency”.

4. **TRAINING RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE AS FIRE RESPONDERS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

“It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Hon Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”.

12.

Can the Minister detail the training received by all ranks of the Guyana Police Force in relation to their duties and the established protocols as fire responders in cases of a fire at their locations?

Can the Minister indicate the areas of training received and the length of any such training?

(Notice Paper No. 162 (Q127 Opp.127) published on 2022-01-19)

ANSWER

“The Guyana Police Force as part of their basic training are trained in respect of emergency responses including those for the occurrence of fire”.

5. ASSESSMENT AND STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE

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

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

It was widely reported at a Press Conference on the 3rd October, 2021, hosted by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs along with members of the Disciplined Forces, that at least 80 % of the Brickdam Police Station was destroyed by fire”.

1. Can the Minister indicate what assessment has been done to determine the critical departments of the Brickdam Police Station that have been more significantly affected? Further, can the Minister advise on the government's short, medium and long-term plans to address the needs of the critical departments?
2. Can the Minister indicate if the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were activated on the 3rd October, 2021, at the scene of the fire? If yes, can the Minister also indicate whether the Guyana Fire Service was the first responder?
3. Can the Minister indicate if the correct Alert Code was given as detailed in the protocols to the Disciplined forces? Further, at what stage and what Alert Code was given?

13.

4. Can the Minister indicate how many Senior Ranks within the Guyana Fire Service were on duty on the 3rd October, 2021, and the ranks of all senior officers who were on duty on the said date?
5. Can the Hon. Minister state whether the conduct of the staff of the Guyana Fire Service who were on duty was in conformity with the Standard Operating Procedures of the Guyana Fire Service? If no, can the Minister advise what actions have been taken to address those officers who have breached their SOPS?

(Notice Paper No. 163 (Q128 Opp.128) published on 2022-01-19)

ANSWERS

1. “A new eight story Police Station is to be constructed at Brickdam. Departments are now mainly housed in the historical barracks building which was saved from the fire.
2. Fire response was from the Guyana Police Force Officers on route followed by the Guyana Fire Service.
3. The alerts in respect of the fire were followed and required ‘General Alert’ was issued.
4. There were twelve (12) Senior Officers and forty-four other firefighting ranks on duty on 3rd October, 2021.
5. This matter is under review”.

For Oral Reply

- *6. **ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRMEN, DEPUTY CHAIRMEN, MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS OF THE SEVENTY (70) NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS AND TEN (10) MUNICIPALITIES**

Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P. asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development the following question:

“In keeping with the Laws of Guyana Chapter 28:02 section 28 (1) and (2) and the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Act 2018 (Act No. 10 of 2018) which state:

28:02 section 28 (1) and (2) and the Local Authorities (Elections)
(Amendment) Act 2018 (Act No. 10 of 2018) which state:

Chapter 28:02 - Section 28

1. The Councillors of every Council, after hereinafter provided in this section, elect out of their number a Chairman and Deputy Chairman, of the Council.
2. The Overseer shall not later than the 16th of December of each year summon a meeting of the Councillors for the ensuing year for the purpose of electing a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year and not less than three days notice of the meeting shall be given.

Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Act 2018 (Act 10 of 2018) Section 12 (1)

Subject to paragraph b and c, the Town Clerk shall in every year no later than the 16th day of December call a meeting of the City Councillors for the purpose of electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

*Can the Hon. Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Mr. Nigel Dharamlall, M.P. explain to this Honourable House why were no elections for Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen, Mayors and Deputy Mayors, of the 70 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and 10 Municipalities respectively, held on or before December 16, 2021 for the ensuing, year 2022?

Notice Paper No. 168 (Q130 Opp.130) published on 2022-01-31)

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., asked the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 13 (Order of Business)

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

WHEREAS very important Committees Business (Motions) has been on the Order Paper since December, 2021 to date;

AND WHEREAS some of the aforementioned motions await the approval of the National Assembly in order to proceed with the nomination and appointment of three Constitutional Commissions as well as Statutory Bodies;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of Government to have the motions adopted in order to allow for some of these Commissions and Statutory Bodies to commence their work.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 13 (Order of Business) be suspended to allow the Assembly to consider the Committees Business after consideration of Government's Business at its Sitting on 13th April, 2022.

(Notice Paper No. 174 (M42 Govt 23) published on 2022-04-06)

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1 - EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 – Bill No. 3/2022

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act.

2 - CONDOMINIUM BILL 2022 – Bill No. 4/2022

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the horizontal and vertical subdivision of land and buildings into units for individual ownership and to make provision for the use and management of condominiums and matters connected thereto.

3 - JUVENILE JUSTICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 – Bill No. 5/2022

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Juvenile Justice Act.

4 - THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES BILL 2022 – Bill No. 6/2022

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the registration and regulation of nurses, midwives, nursing assistants and specialist nurses, and for related matters.

5 - MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION BILL 2022 – Bill No. 7/2022

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide mental health care and treatment for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of those persons during the delivery of mental health care; to provide for the establishment of the Mental Health Board; to repeal the Mental Hospital Ordinance and for related matters.

6 - THE RADIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY BILL 2022 – Bill No. 8/2022

The Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was **referred** to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of ionizing radiation, protect persons and the environment against the harmful effects of radioactive waste, establish the Radiation Safety and Security Board and for connected matters.

7 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 – Bill No. 9/2022

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 1- APPROVAL OF GUYANA'S MEMBERSHIP TO THE
COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEES**

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) was founded in June 2015 with the aim of sustaining and promoting the highest principles of public finance in all Commonwealth Parliaments and thus ensuring that the citizens they serve benefit from strong and independent Public Accounts or equivalent committees;

AND WHEREAS, as decided by the Parliamentary Management Committee, the Parliament of Guyana made application on 27th January, 2020 to become a Member of CAPAC;

AND WHEREAS, for membership to any international organization or resolution of the Parliament of Guyana is required,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of Guyana becoming a Member of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees.

(Notice Paper No. 166 (M 35 Govt 22) published on 2022-01-21)

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., spoke to the motion.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

ITEM 2 - AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER NO. 82 (Public Accounts Committee)

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

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 82 provides for the establishment of the Public Accounts Committee and defines its role and functions;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 95(6) states that three (3) Members is the quorum on any Standing or Select Committee including the Chairperson “unless the Assembly otherwise direct”;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 83(5) provides in the Parliamentary Management Committee for a quorum of five (5) Members, of which two (2) must represent the Government, and, two (2) must represent the Opposition, one (1) of whom shall be the representative of the main Opposition party, and the Speaker and or the Deputy Speaker as the Chairperson of the said Committee;

AND WHEREAS due to the role and functions of the Public Accounts Committee, it would be appropriate to amend Standing Order 82 to provide for a similar quorum formulation as in the Parliamentary Management Committee,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 82 be amended as follows: -

Public Accounts Committee

Standing Order	HOW AMENDED
82	<p>By inserting immediately after paragraph (3), the following paragraph –</p> <p>“(4) A quorum shall be five (5) Members, two (2) representing the Government, two (2) representing the Opposition and the Chairperson.”</p>

(Notice Paper No. 175 (M43 Govt 24) published on 2022-04-06)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.20 p.m. the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P. also spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.57 p.m. the Speaker suspended the Sitting to enable Muslim Brothers and Sisters to break their Fast.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.45 p.m. the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke the motion:

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

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

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip replied.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NO. 10(1)

At 9.55 p.m., the Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue beyond 10:00 p.m., to conclude its business.

The motion was then **put** and **carried** on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Sears
 Mr. Sinclair
 Mr. Ramsaroop
 Ms. Philadelphia
 Mr. Jaiprashad
 Mrs. Flue-Bess
 Mr. Mahipaul
 Mr. Figueira
 Mr. Cox
 Ms. Fernandes
 Ms. Ferguson
 Mrs. Singh-Lewis
 Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
 Dr. Cummings
 Mr. Henry
 Mrs. Hughes
 Ms. Mc Donald
 Mrs. Walton-Desir
 Mr. Jordan
 Mr. Jones
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Holder

FOR

Mr. Shuman
 Ms. Veerasammy
 Mr. Williams
 Dr. Smith
 Mr. Jaffarally
 Dr. Westford
 Dr. Ramsaran
 Mrs. Pearson-Federicks
 Mr. Narine
 Mr. Datadin
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. McCoy
 Mr. A. Persaud
 Mr. Indar
 Ms. Rodrigues
 Ms. Parag
 Mr. Ramson
 Dr. V. Persaud
 Mr. Croal
 Mr. Dharamlall
 Mr. Bharrat
 Mr. Hamilton
 Ms. Sukhai

Mr. Forde
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Norton

Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Manichchand
Dr. Anthony
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Todd
Ms. Teixeira
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Jadgeo
Mr. Phillips

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(ii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 3 - APPROVAL OF LIST OF ENTITIES TO NOMINATE MEMBERS TO
THE ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, article 212A of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Ethnic Relations Commission;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with article 212 B (1) of the Constitution, the Ethnic Relations Commission shall consist of –

- (a) *“not less than five nor more than fifteen members, nominated by entities, by a consensual mechanism determined by the National Assembly, including entities, representative of religious bodies, the labour movement, the private business sector, youth and women, after the entities are determined by the votes not less than twothirds of all elected members of the National Assembly;*
- (b) *a member who shall be a nominee, without the right to vote, chosen by and from each of the following commissions to be established under this Constitution, Indigenous Peoples’ Commission, Women and Gender Equality Commission, Commission for the Rights of the Child and Human Rights Commission.”*

AND WHEREAS, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments (COA) examined the list of entities to nominate members to the Ethnic Relations Commission in accordance with article 212 B (1)(a) of the Constitution, Resolution No. 62 of 2000, and Resolution No. 68 of 2014 which increased the composition from 7 to 10 with regard to the number of members on the said Commission;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the list of entities on the attached First Schedule in accordance with article 212 (B)(1)(a);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves that the number of nominees for each group of entities be as follows: -

Groups of Entities	Number of Members
Christian Religion	One Member
Hindu Religion	One Member
Muslim Religion	One Member
Labour Movement	One Member
Private Sector Organisations	One Member
Youth Organisations	One Member
Women Organisations	One Member
.	
Cultural/Ethnic Organisations	
- Indo-Guyanese	One Member
- Afro-Guyanese	One Member
- Indigenous/Amerindian	One Member

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the consensual mechanism for the nomination of the members by the entities as set out in the Second Schedule attached.

(Notice Paper No. 141 (M29 Committees 6) published on 2021-12-06)

FIRST SCHEDULE

Groups and Entities within each Group to Nominate Members of the Ethnic Relations Commission

RELIGIOUS BODIES: -

Islamic Bodies

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat

Anjuman Ilifazutal Islam
Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation Lahore
Guyana Islamic Forum
Guyana Islamic Trust
Guyana United Sadr Islamic Anjuman
Hijatul Ulamaa
The Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana

Hindu Bodies

Brahma Kumaris
Gandhi Youth Organisation
Guyana Central Arya Samaj
Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha
Guyana Maha Kali All Religious Organisation
Guyana Pandits Council
Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha
Guyana Sevashram Sangha, Cove and John Ashram
Hare Krishna Iskcon Movement Guyana
Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Guyana
Viraat Sabha

Christian Bodies

Ambassadors for Christ
Church of Christ
District of the Nazarene Church of Guyana
Family Federation for World Peace & Unification
Freedom Life Ministries Inc.

Georgetown Ministers Fellowship (Umbrella Body - See Appendix for details)
Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist
Guyana Congregational Union
Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) (Umbrella Body - See Appendix for details)
Guyana Evangelical Fellowship (Umbrella Body - See Appendix for details)
Lifespring Ministries
The Wesleyan Church
The Church of God
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
The Guyana United Apostolic Mystical Council
The Hareyuya Church aka The Alleluias Church
The New Amsterdam/ Canje Christian Council
Zadok Ministers Fellowship (Umbrella Body - See Appendix for details)

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT BODIES

Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (AT&GWU)
Clerical & Commercial Workers Union (CCWU)
General Workers Union (GWU)
Guyana Agricultural & General Workers' Union (GAWU)
Guyana Bauxite and General Workers Union (GBSU)
Guyana Labour Union (GLU)
Guyana Local Government Officers' Union (GLGOU)
Guyana Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union (GP&TWU)
Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU)
Guyana Taxis Service Association
Guyana Teachers Union (GTU)
National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE)

National Mine Workers' Union of Guyana
National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE)
Printing Industry and Allied Workers' Union (PIAWU)
The People United and General Workers Union (TPU&GWU)
Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers (UAAW)
United Minibus Union
University of Guyana Senior Staff Association (UGSSA)
University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU)

PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR BODIES

Bankers' Association of Guyana
Bartica Chamber of Commerce and Development Association
Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association (BCCDA)
Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce (CCCC)
Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry (CAGI)
Essequibo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI)
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)
Guycraft Producers Association Inc.
Guyana Forest Products Association
Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association
Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association
Guyana Private Sector Commission
Guyana Rice Millers and Exporters Development Association
Guyana Rice Producers Association
Guyana Trawlers and Seafood Processors Association
Linden Chamber of Industry, Commerce and Development (LCICD)
Private Aircraft Owners Association of Guyana

29.

Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI)

Shipping Association of Guyana

The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Upper Corentyne Chamber of Commerce (UCCI)

Region 5 Chamber of Industry and Commerce

West Demerara/East Bank Essequibo & Islands' Chamber of Commerce
and Industry, Inc. (WD/EBE)/I)

YOUTH BODIES

Central Baptist Youth Fellowship

Church of Christ Youth Group

Diocese of Georgetown (Roman Catholic Youth Office)

Dharmic Naujawan (Dharmic Youth)

Empowering Queers Using Artistic Learning (EQUAL)

Full Gospel Youth Fellowship

Generation Next

Golden Om Dharmic Youth Organisation

Guyana Girl Guides Association

Guyana Central Arya Samaj -Youth Organisation

Guyana Congregational Young People's Union

Guyana Scouts Association

Guyana Youth and Student Movement

Guyana Youth Development Association

Indian Action Committee Youth Group

Joshua Generation

Junior Chamber International Guyana (JCI Guyana)

Leo Association of Guyana

Methodist Youth Club

Muslim Youth League of Guyana

Muslim Youth Organisation

National Youth Council

Outreach Ministries International -Youth Arm

Presbytery of Guyana Youth Council

Progressive Youth Organisation

Rotaract Clubs of Guyana

President's Youth Award: Republic of Guyana, MS

The Youth Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist

The Moravian Church in Guyana, Youth Fellowship

University of Guyana Student Society

Volunteer Youth Corps

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM)

Youths for Change (YFC)

Youth Ministries Department of the Assemblies of God

WOMEN'S BODIES

Assemblies of God Women's Ministry

Association of Women Entrepreneurs

Guyana Association of Women's Artists

Guyana Association of Women's Lawyers

Guyana District Conference Women's Work Committee (Methodist)

Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha Mahila Mandalee

Guyana Nurses Association

Guyana Women's Miners Association

Guyanese Women in Development (GUY WID)
Lutheran Church Women
National Congress of Women
Outreach Ministries International Women's Group
Red Thread Women's Development Project
Salvation Army Home League
The Mother's Union Diocese of Guyana
The National Committee of Sisters Affairs (NACOSA)
The Women's Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist
Women's Advisory Council (WAC)
Women Across Differences
Women for Change (AFC Women Arm)
Women's Progressive Organisation
Young Women's Christian Association of Guyana (YWCA)

CULTURAL /ETHNIC

Indigenous/Amerindian Bodies

Amerindian People's Association
Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples'
National Amerindian Development Foundation
National Toshias Council
The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana

Afro-Guyanese Bodies

African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA)
All African Guyanese Council

Forum for the Temples of Kamaatic Spirituality

Guyana Rastafarian Council

House of NyahBinghi

International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly - Guyana (IDPADA-G)

Pan African Movement (Guyana Branch)

Indo-Guyanese Bodies

Indian Action Committee

Indian Commemoration Trust

Appendix

Guyana Council of Churches:

1. AME Church (St. Peter's)
2. AME Zion Church
3. Anglican Diocese
4. Catholic Diocese
5. Church of God
6. Church of the Nazarene
7. Congregational Union
8. Ethiopian Orthodox
9. Evangelical Lutheran
10. Methodist Church
11. Moravian Church
12. Outreach Ministries
13. Presbyterian Church (Burns Memorial)
14. Presbyterian Church (St. Andrews Kirk)

15. Salvation Army

16. Guyana Missionary Baptist Church

Guyana Evangelical Fellowship:

1. Assemblies of God
2. Full Gospel Fellowship
3. Elim Pentecostal Fellowship
4. Christian Brethren Assemblies
5. Wesleyan Church
6. New Testament Church of God
7. Christian Mission
8. Church of God of Prophecy
9. Faith Miracles Ministries
10. Word of Faith
11. First Century Gospel Mission Assembly
12. Intervarsity Fellowship (IS/IVF)
13. Every Home Crusade
14. EPAS (Early Pregnancy)

Georgetown Ministers' Fellowship Churches:

1. Agape Assembly of God
2. Bethlehem New Testament
3. Bladen Hall Assembly of God
4. Bethel Gospel Hall
5. Christian Mission Gospel Tabernacle
6. Church of God of Prophecy
7. Covent Garden Assembly of God

8. Deliverance Tabernacle Assembly of God
9. Ruimveldt Life Improvement Centre AOG
10. Ebenezer Full Gospel Fellowship
11. Elim Pentecostal Church
12. Emmanuel's Tabernacle Kitty Assembly of God
13. First Assembly of God Wortmanville
14. From the Heart Church Ministries
15. Holy Spirit Empowered Church of Lord Jesus Christ
16. House of Prayer Tucville Assembly
17. Kingston Assembly of God
18. Love & Faith World Outreach Ministries
19. New Life Assembly of God
20. Newton Assembly of God
21. Queenstown Moravian
22. Streams of Power Ministries
23. South Road Full Gospel Fellowship
24. Success Assembly of God
25. Sure Foundation Ministries
26. Tuschen Assembly of God
27. Vreed-en-Hoop Wesleyan Church

Zadok Ministries Fellowship:

1. Outreach Ministries International
2. Ambassadors of Christ Ministries
3. Grace Pentecostal Fellowship
4. Praise Shekinah Worship Centre
5. Jesus Home of Prayer and Deliverance

6. Jesus Highs Healing and Deliverance Ministry
7. Restoreth Ministry Inc.
8. Pentecostal Family Ministry
9. Word of Life Center

SECOND SCHEDULE

Consensual Mechanism for the Nomination by Entities for Members of the Ethnic Relations Commission

All the Entities in each Group, immediately on the passage of this motion, should be written to by the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting them to meet as a group, to select their nominees

and to send a representative/s on an appointed day/date, time to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee to Appoint Members of the Commissions, at the Parliament Buildings to present the name/s of their nominee/s for Membership on the Ethnic Relations Commission.

A deadline shall be set by the Clerk of the National Assembly on advice by the Standing Committee, by which time it would be formally notified of the names and other requested particulars of the Nominee/s, the process used for the selection of the Nominee/s by the entity, and a statement to the effect that the Nominee/s is/are supported and accepted by that entity.

The Nominee/s chosen to represent the Group must be a person/s who is competent to contribute positively to the work of the Commission and who are committed to ensuring that it discharges all of its functions. They should have earned public respect and be of unquestionable honesty and integrity.

The process used must be demonstrated to be unbiased and transparent. It is important that the Nominee/s obtain the unquestioned support and acceptance of the Entity nominating them as well as the Entities within the Group.

Where there is a recognized “*umbrella organization*” in the list of entities for that Group, the Clerk shall write to that organization and copy his letter to each of the “*constituent entities*” within the Group.

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., spoke to the motion

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip replied.

In accordance with Article 212B(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the motion was **put** and **carried** on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Mr. Sears

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Cox
Ms. Fernandes
Ms. Ferguson
Mrs. Singh-Lewis
Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Henry
Mrs. Hughes
Ms. Mc Donald
Mrs. Walton-Desir
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Jones
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mrs. Lawrence
Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
Mr. Holder
Mr. Forde
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Norton
Ms. Veerasammy
Mr. Williams
Dr. Smith
Mr. Jaffarally
Dr. Westford
Dr. Ramsaran
Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks
Mr. Narine

Mr. Datadin
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. McCoy
 Mr. A. Persaud
 Mr. Indar
 Ms. Rodrigues
 Ms. Parag
 Mr. Ramson
 Dr. V. Persaud
 Mr. Croal
 Mr. Dharamlall
 Mr. Bharrat
 Mr. Hamilton
 Ms. Sukhai
 Mr. Mustapha
 Ms. Manickchand
 Dr. Anthony
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Todd
 Ms. Teixeira
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Jagdeo
 Mr. Phillips

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION OF THE THIRD REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Third Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signify to the President that the following persons:

- (i) **Mr. Ernesto Choo-a-Fat, Businessman;**
- (ii) **Mr. Lloyd Mark Conway, Attorney-at-Law;**
- (iii) **Mr. Hakeem Mohamed, A.A., Businessman; and**
- (iv) **Mr. Patrick Anthony Findlay, Bishop.**

who have been nominated in accordance with article 210(1)(c) of the Constitution, be appointed Members of the Police Service Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 152 (M 32 Committees 7) published on 2021-12-20)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., spoke to the motion

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip replied.

The motion was **put** and **carried**.

ITEM 5 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS article 212X (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana states:

“The President shall appoint the members of the Commission after such members have been nominated by the Public Accounts Committee and approved by not less than two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly.”

AND WHEREAS, in keeping with article 212X (2) the Public Accounts Committee established a Sub-Committee for the purpose of shortlisting applicants to the Public Procurement Commission;

AND WHEREAS, the Sub-Committee at its 1st Meeting shortlisted the following applicants:

- 1) **Justice Carl Ashok Singh**
- 2) **Mr. Dunstan Barrow, A.A, MBA (Hons.), BSc. (Hons.)**
- 3) **Mr. Reggie Bhagwandin Jugmohan**
- 4) **Mr. Roopnarine Satram**
- 5) **Mr. Gavindra Ramnarain**
- 6) **Mr. Mark Deen**
- 7) **Mr. Dwarka Balkaran**
- 8) **Mr. Berkley Wickham**
- 9) **Mr. Lelon Saul**
- 10) **Mr. Kenneth Michael Jordan**
- 11) **Ms. Sharon Patterson**

41.

12) Ms. Dianna Rajcumar

13) Ms. Beverly Alert

AND WHEREAS, the Sub-Committee at its 2nd Meeting shortlisted the following applicants:

1) Ms. Pauline Ann Cleopatra Chase

2) Mr. Joel Bhagwandin

3) Mr. Rajnarine Singh

4) Mr. Berkley Wickham

5) Mr. Rawle Lucas

AND WHEREAS, at its 28th Meeting held on January 17, 2022, the Public Accounts Committee, after deliberations, recommended, from among the applicants shortlisted the following persons as the suitable candidates to be appointed to the Public Procurement Commission.

1) Ms. Pauline Ann Cleopatra Chase

2) Mr. Joel Bhagwandin

3) Mr. Rajnarine Singh

4) Mr. Berkley Wickham

5) Ms. Dianna Rajcumar

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members to the Public Procurement Commission and signifies to the President that the following persons have been recommended in accordance with article 212X (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana:

1) Ms. Pauline Ann Cleopatra Chase

2) Mr. Joel Bhagwandin

42.

3) Mr. Rajnarine Singh

4) Mr. Berkley Wickham

5) Ms. Dianna Rajcumar

(Notice Paper No. 172 (M40 Committees 8) published on 2022-03-09)

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, spoke to the motion

In accordance with Article 212X(2) of the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the motion was **put** and **carried** on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Mr. Sears

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Cox

Ms. Fernandes

Ms. Ferguson

Mrs. Singh-Lewis

Mrs. Sarabo-Halley

Dr. Cummings

43.

Mr. Henry
Mrs. Hughes
Ms. Mc Donald
Mrs. Walton-Desir
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Jones
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mrs. Lawrence
Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
Mr. Holder
Mr. Forde
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Norton
Ms. Veerasammy
Mr. Williams
Dr. Smith
Mr. Jaffarally
Dr. Westford
Dr. Ramsaran
Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks
Mr. Narine
Mr. Datadin
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Charlie
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. McCoy
Mr. A. Persaud
Mr. Indar

/...44

Ms. Rodrigues
Ms. Parag
Mr. Ramson
Dr. V. Persaud
Mr. Croal
Mr. Dharamlall
Mr. Bharrat
Mr. Hamilton
Ms. Sukhai
Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Manickchand
Dr. Anthony
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Todd
Ms. Teixeira
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Phillips

**ITEM 6 - ADOPTION OF THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A
DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE FUND AND A
MEMBER TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved the following motion:

45.

WHEREAS in keeping with the Natural Resource Fund Act No. 19 of 2021, Part III, as follows:-

“5. (1) *There shall be a Board of Directors of the Fund which shall comprise of not less than three and not more than five members who shall be appointed by the President, one of whom shall be appointed Chairperson by the President.*

(2) The Directors shall be selected from among persons who have wide experience and ability in legal. Financial. Business, or administrative matters, one of whom shall be nominated by the National Assembly and one of whom shall be a representative of the private sector.”

And

“6. (1) *There shall be a Committee to be known as the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee which shall comprise the following members appointed by the President and one of whom shall be appointed Chairperson by the President*

—

- (a) a nominee of the National Assembly;*
- (b) three representatives of the religious community;*
- (c) two representatives of the private sector;*
- (d) two representatives of organized labour; and*
- (e) one representative of the professions.”*

AND WHEREAS, the Committee proposed ten (10) nominees for the positions;

AND WHEREAS, the Committee on Appointments after deliberations recommended **Mr. Dunstan Barrow** as the suitable candidate to be appointed a Director on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund, in accordance with the Natural Resource Fund Act No. 19 of 2021;

AND WHEREAS, the Committee on Appointments after deliberations recommended **Mr. Clement Sealey** as the suitable candidate to be appointed as a member to the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee, in accordance with the Natural Resource Fund Act No. 19 of 2021,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to address matters relating to the appointments of a Director on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund and a member to the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly signifies to the Clerk of the National Assembly that **Mr. Dunstan Barrow** and **Mr. Clement Sealey** be appointed in accordance Part III, of the Natural Resource Fund Act No. 19 of 2021, Sections 5 & 6.

(Notice Paper No. 173 (M41 Committees 9) published on 2022-03-22)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., spoke to the motion

The motion was **put** and **carried**.

ITEM 7 - ADOPTION OF THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF ENTITIES AND CONSensual Mechanism to Nominate Members to the Women and Gender Equality Commission

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments) moved the following motion:

47.

WHEREAS, Article 212 Q of the Constitution has established a Women and Gender Equality Commission;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with Article 212 Q (2) of the Constitution, the Women and Gender Equality Commission shall consist of-

- (a) “not less than five nor more than fifteen members, with expertise in women’s and gender equality issues, nominated by entities, by a consensual mechanism determined by the National Assembly, after the entities which shall include the Women’s Advisory Committee of the Trade Union Congress, are determined by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the elected Members of the National Assembly; and*
- (b) the Administrator of the Women’s Affairs Bureau, by whatever name that office is designated; and*
- (c) a member who shall be a nominee, without the right to vote, chosen by and from each of the following Commissions: the Human Rights Commission, Ethnic Relations Commission, Indigenous People’s Commission and Rights of the Child Commission.”*

AND WHEREAS, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments (COA) examined the list of entities to nominate members to the Women and Gender Equality Commission in accordance with article 212 Q (2)(a) of the Constitution, and Resolution No. 62 of 2000 with regard to the appointment of members to the rights commissions;

AND WHEREAS, the Committee having deliberated on the identification of the entities for nomination to the Women & Gender Equality Commission in accordance with art 212 Q (2) (a), unanimously agrees and proposes that the Commission be comprised of nominations from the list of entities in the First Schedule in the following categories:

48.

Women Bodies	2
Regional Representative from 8 GAC	5
TUC Women's Advisory Council	1
Labour Movement	1
Private Business Sector Bodies	1
Professional Bodies	1
Cultural/Ethnic	3
And (b)	
Administrator of the Women's Affairs Bureau	1

AND WHEREAS, the Committee also unanimously agreed on the consensual mechanism to guide the process for consultation and nomination of Members to the said Women and Gender Equality Commission herein at the Second Schedule;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the proposed representation of the above-mentioned categories from the list of entities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly adopts the Committee on Appointments Report on the Women and Gender Equality Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the list of entities to nominate Members to the Women and Gender Equality Commission as set out in the First Schedule attached, in accordance with article 212Q (2)(a) of the Constitution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the consensual mechanism, outlined in the Second Schedule attached.

(Notice Paper No. 176 (M44 Committees 10) published on 2022-04-06)

FIRST SCHEDULE

**Group and entities within each Group of Nominate Members of the
Women and Gender Equality Commission**

Women Bodies- 2

Assemblies of God Women's Ministry
Association of Women Entrepreneurs
Guyana Association of Women's Artists
Guyana Association of Women Lawyers
Guyana District Conference Women's Work Committee (Methodist)
Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha- Mahila Mandalee
Guyana Women Miners Organisation
Guyanese Women in Development (GUYWID)
Lutheran Church Women
Mothers' Union Diocese of Guyana
National Committee of Sisters Affairs (NACOSA) (CIOG Women's Arm)
National Congress of Women
Outreach Ministries International Women's Group
Red Thread Women's Development Project
Salvation Army Home League
The Women's Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist
Women Across Differences

Women for Change (AFC Women Arm)
Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society
Women's Progressive Organisation
Young Women's Christian Association of Guyana (YWCA)

Regional Gender Affairs Committees- (Regions 1-7 & 9) -5

The Labour Movement-1

Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (AT&GWU)
 Clerical & Commercial Workers Union (CCWU)
 General Workers Union (GWU)
 Guyana Agricultural & General Workers' Union (GAWU)
 Guyana Bauxite and General Workers Union (GBSU)
 Guyana Labour Union (GLU)
 Guyana Local Government Officers' Union (GLGOU)
 Guyana Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union (GP&TWU)
 Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU)
 Guyana Taxis Service Association
 Guyana Teachers Union (GTU)
 National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE)
 National Mine Workers' Union of Guyana
 National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE)
 Printing Industry and Allied Workers' Union (PIAWU)
 The People United and General Workers Union (TPU&GWU)
 Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers (UAAW)
 United Minibus Union
 University of Guyana Senior Staff Association (UGSSA)
 University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU)

Private Business Sector Bodies -1

Bankers' Association of Guyana
 Bartica Chamber of Commerce and Development Association
 Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association (BCCA)
 Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce (CCCC)
 Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry (CAGI)
 Essequibo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI)
 Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)
 Guycraft Producers Association Inc.
 Guyana Forest Products Association
 Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
 Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association
 Guyana Private Sector Commission
 Guyana Rice Millers and Exporters Development Association

Guyana Rice Producers Association
Guyana Trawlers and Seafood Processors Association
Linden Chamber of Industry, Commerce and Development (LCICD)
Private Aircraft Owners Association of Guyana
Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI)
Shipping Association of Guyana
The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
Upper Corentyne Chamber of Commerce (UCCI)
Region 5 Chambers of Industry and Commerce
West Demerara/East Bank Essequibo & Islands' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
(WD/EBE)/I)
Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry Guyana (WCCIG)

Professional Group-1

Association of Chartered Accountants
Guyana Association of Optometrists
Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW)
Guyana Bar Association
Guyana Nurses Association
Guyana Medical Association
Guyana Pharmacists' Association
Medical Technologists Association of Guyana

Cultural / Ethnic-3

Indigenous/Amerindian Bodies - 1

Amerindian People's Association
Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples
National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
National Toshaos Council (NTC)
The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)

Afro-Guyanese Bodies -1

African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA)
All African Guyanese Council
Forum for the Temples of Kamaatic Spirituality
Guyana Rastafarian Council

House of NyahBinghi

International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly - Guyana (IDPADA-G)

Pan African Movement (Guyana Branch)

Indo-Guyanese Bodies -1

Indian Action Committee

Indian Commemoration Trust

SECOND SCHEDULE

Consensual Mechanism for the Nomination by Entities of Members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission

All the Entities in each Group, immediately on the passage of this motion, shall be written to by the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting them to meet as a group, to select their nominees and to send a representative/s on an appointed day/date, time to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee to Appoint Members of the Commissions, at the Parliament Buildings to present the name/s of their nominee/s for Membership on the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

A deadline shall be set by the Clerk of the National Assembly on advice by the Standing Committee, by which time it would be formally notified of the names and other requested particulars of the Nominee/s, the process used for the selection of the Nominee/s by the entity, and a statement to the effect that the Nominee/s is/are supported and accepted by that entity.

The Nominee/s chosen to represent the Group must be person/s who are competent to contribute positively to the work of the Commission and who are committed to ensuring that it discharges all of its functions. They should have earned public respect and be of unquestionable honesty and integrity.

The process used must be demonstrated to be unbiased and transparent. It is important that the Nominee/s obtain the unquestioned support and acceptance of the Entity nominating them as well as the Entities within the Group.

Where there is a recognised “*umbrella organization*” in the list of entities for that Group, the Clerk shall write to that organisation and copy his letter to each of the “*constituent entities*” within the Group.

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., spoke to the motion

In accordance with Article 212Q(2)(a) of the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the motion was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Mr. Sears

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Cox

Ms. Fernandes

Ms. Ferguson

Mrs. Singh-Lewis

Mrs. Sarabo-Halley

Dr. Cummings

Mr. Henry

Mrs. Hughes

Ms. Mc Donald

Mrs. Walton-Desir

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Jones

Mrs. Hastings-Williams

Mrs. Lawrence

Mrs. Chandan-Edmond

Mr. Holder

Mr. Forde

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Norton

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks

Mr. Narine

Mr. Datadin

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. McCoy

Mr. A. Persaud

Mr. Indar

Ms. Rodrigues

Ms. Parag

Mr. Ramson

Dr. V. Persaud

Mr. Croal

Mr. Dharamlall

Mr. Bharrat
Mr. Hamilton
Ms. Sukhai
Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Manickchand
Dr. Anthony
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Todd
Ms. Teixeira
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Phillips

**ITEM 8 - EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES TO THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (Member of the
Committee of Privileges) moved the following motion:

WHEREAS at the 35th Sitting of the National Assembly held on 24th January, 2022, the
National Assembly referred the following Members to the Committee of Privileges:

- Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,
- Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.,
- Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P.,
- Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.,
- Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.,
- Hon. Vincero Jordan, M.P.,

56.

- Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., and
- Hon. Maureen Philadelphia, M.P;

AND WHEREAS the Committee of Privileges was mandated to enquire whether the named Members committed to the Committee of Privileges, have violated any of the Standing Orders, Customs, Practices, and/or Conventions of the National Assembly and to determine the sanctions available and can be applied by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly mandated the Committee of Privileges to report to the National Assembly within one (1) month from the date of the moving of the motion, that is, on the 24th February, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Committee commenced its work on 18th February, 2022 and has had three (3) meetings to date;

AND WHEREAS owing to intense discussions on the procedure to be followed with respect to the matters before the Committee, the Committee was unable to submit its report to the National Assembly within the required one (1) month;

AND WHEREAS the Committee needs additional time to continue and conclude its work,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of an extension of the deadline for the submission of the Report of the Committee of Privileges from 24th February, 2022 to 1st June, 2022.

(Notice Paper No. 177 (M45 Committees 11) published on 2022-04-07)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance moved the amendment as follows: -

“delete number ‘1st’ and insert number ‘15th’”

The amendment was put and carried.

The motion, as amended, was put and carried.

EASTER, RAMADAN, AND NAVRATRI GREETINGS

The Speaker extended Easter, Ramadan, and Navratri greetings to the Members of the National Assembly, the staff of the Parliament Office and the Media. The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition joined the Speaker in extending greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.00 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

13th April, 2022.

