

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 51ST 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, 30TH NOVEMBER, 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 (Absent)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent on – leave)

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 (Absent on – leave)

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. Aubrey Norton M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

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

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

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

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent on – Leave)

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip (Suspended)
Hon. Vinceroy H. Jordan, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Suspended)
Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.
Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P. (Virtual Participation)
Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.
Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.
Hon. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P. (Suspended)
Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P. (Suspended)
Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Suspended)
Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.
Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.
Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini) (Absent)
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) (Suspended)
Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.
Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Virtual Participation)
Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprashad, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Hon. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Suspended)
Hon. Beverley Alert, 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 2.17 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) Leave:

The Speaker informed Members that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.,

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

Hon. Vindhya V. H. Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security for that day's Sitting.

(1) Salutations

The Speaker welcomed H.E. Nicolas Bouillance de Lacoste, Non-Resident Ambassador (Designate) of the French Republic to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Mr. Pierre Gate, Resident Representative of the French Embassy Bureau in Georgetown, Guyana, to that Sitting of the National Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Financial Intelligence Unit for the year 2021.

(Circulated)

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- (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Oil Company for the year 2020.
(Circulated)
- (iii) Annual Reports of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
(Circulated)
- (iv) Annual Report of the National Insurance Scheme for the year 2020.
(Circulated)
- (v) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2022 – No. 51 of 2022.
(Circulated)
- (vi) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2022 – No. 52 of 2022.
(Circulated)
- (vii) Financial Paper No. 2/2022 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,904,841,406 for the period 2022-08-15 to 2022-11-29.
(Circulated)
- (viii) Financial Paper No. 3/2022 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$44,443,164,154 for the period ending 31st December, 2022.
(Circulated)

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance named Monday 5th, December, 2022, for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**For Written Replies****1. LOCAL CONTENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Member Asking: **Mr. David Patterson, M.P.******Minister Answering: **The Minister of Natural Resources****

On December 29, 2021, the Local Content Act, No. 18 of 2021, was debated and passed in the National Assembly and assented into Law on December 31, 2021.

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly whether the Local Content Advisory Committee, as mentioned in Part V of the Local Content Act, has been established?
2. If the answer is no to (Q1), can the Honourable Minister give reasons for the delay?

(Notice Paper No. 196 (Q144 Opp.144) published on 2022-11-02)

ANSWERS

1. "In keeping with Section 5 of the Local Content Act No. 18 of 2021, the Local Content Secretariat, a unit within the Ministry of Natural Resources, came into operation in January 2022. As of November 8, 2022, the Local Content Advisory Committee has not been established, as yet. We are awaiting the submission of the nominee from the Leader of the Opposition.

However, the work of the Local Content Secretariat continues in keeping with sections 5 (2) & (3) of the Local Content Act.

2. The names of persons as proposed by their entities have been submitted and the Ministry of Natural Resources which has oversight of the Local Content Secretariat is still awaiting the submission of the Nominee by the Leader of the Opposition. The Ministry of Natural Resources has written to the former Leader of the Opposition and the current Leader of the Opposition on January 07, 2022, and September 06, 2022, respectively. To date, no response was received".

8.

2. **WALES GAS TO SHORE PROJECT**

Member Asking: **Mr. David Patterson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Natural Resources**

1. Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly if any agreements have been signed with Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL) in connection with the Wales Gas to Shore project? If yes, can the Minister provide the House with a copy of these agreements?

2. Can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly if an Environmental Permit has been issued for this project? If yes, can the Minister provide the House with a copy?
(Notice Paper No. 197 (Q145 Opp.145) published on 2022-11-02)

ANSWERS

1. “Mr. Speaker, the Government of Guyana has signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) with the Stabroek Coventurers 30th June 2022. This agreement sets out the principles and conditions for the commercial and technical arrangements of the Gas to Energy Project. There are other agreements on supply, buyer's agreement, field development, licencing conditions, onshore works, and land matters that are currently being drafted. The respective agreements and policy documents will be presented to this Honourable House when they have been agreed upon and executed. All agreements are being done in a timely manner to meet the Final Investment Decision which will allow for the project to be completed by our committed deadline of December 2024.

2. Mr. Speaker, just last week the first Environmental Permit for the Gas to Energy Project was approved and signed by all parties. This permit covers Development of Natural Gas Transport Pipeline, Materials Offloading Facility and Natural Gas Liquids Plant, Offshore Guyana and Region 3, Onshore Guyana.

9.

This document is now within the public domain. The second permit on the Gas-Powered Plant and the Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) Plant will be issued in another few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to remind the Honourable Members of this House that this permit is under the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency, and it was crafted with technical assistance from other various public and private stakeholders”.

3. REPORTS BY ALISON REDFORD & ACTION PLAN FOR OIL AND GAS

Member Asking: Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Natural Resources

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide this National Assembly with a copy of the report prepared by the consultant Ms. Alison Redford for the Payara Project?
2. Can the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with a copy of the “Institutional Assessment and Action Plan for the Oil and Gas Sector for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Guyana” as developed by Mr. Carlos de Regules in 2019?

(Notice Paper No. 198 (Q146 Opp.146) published on 2022-11-02)

ANSWERS

1. “On the 16th day of July 2019 EEPGL made an application for a Petroleum Production License for the Payara Production Area together with a Field Development Plan as is required by Law. The said Application and FDP were then duly reviewed by a panel of experts and the Payara Licence was approved on the 30th of September 2020. This approval was based on the review and recommendations done by the then Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Department of Energy under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bayphase Consultants and Alison Redford. The result of the work that they have done is reflected within the Payara Petroleum Production Licence itself and this document was published minutes after signing and is readily and widely available.

10.

2. It's our understanding that the "Institutional Assessment and Action Plan for the Oil and Gas Sector for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Guyana" as developed by Mr. Carlos de Regules in 2019 were prepared and submitted to the said Agency. Unfortunately, the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't fall under the remit of the Ministry of Natural Resources and therefore, I am unable to acquiesce to the request".

4. COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH REPAIRS TO DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE (DHB)

Member Asking: Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

Can the Honourable Minister provide this National Assembly with the names of the contractors, contract sums, and scope of works for all works in association with the repairs to the Demerara Harbour Bridge (DHB), as a result of the collision with the DHB and MV 'Tradewinds Passion'?

(Notice Paper No. 199 (Q147 Opp.147) published on 2022-11-02)

ANSWER

Please see **APPENDIX I** for answers to the question above.

5. SMALL BUSINESSES TO RECEIVE GRANTS IN 2022

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Tourism, Industry & Commerce

Reference to an article published by the Department of Public Information, "Another 700+ Small Businesses to receive grants in 2022" by a staff writer on November 10, 2021.

1. Can the Honourable Minister state the criteria used to determine the businesses that should receive grants?
2. Can the Honourable Minister say how many businesses from Eccles to Moblissa on the Linden, Soesdyke/Highway have received grants?

11.

3. Can the Honourable Minister provide the list and addresses for these businesses within this area that have received grants?

(Notice Paper No. 218 (Q164 Opp.164) published on 2022-11-02)

ANSWERS

1. “The criteria used to determine businesses that receive grants are as follows:

- The business must be registered with SBB

Satisfy the criteria of being a small business according to the Small Business Act No.2 of 2004 and the Small Business Amendment Act 2021 i.e., the business must satisfy all three of the following conditions:

1. Annual turnover of not more than G\$60M
2. Business assets value not more than G\$20M
3. Employ less than 25 persons

- The business must be registered with the Commercial and Deed Registry
- The business must be GRA and NIS Compliant.
- The business must submit a business plan and it is based on a completed plan a determination is made as to whether or not an applicant gets a grant.

- The business plan contains:

1. Basic information about the existing or start-up business
2. Business Strategy
3. Description of product or service
4. Market Analysis
5. Marketing Plan
6. Financial Plan — Cash Flow Projection
7. Next Steps and Action Plan
8. SWOT Analysis of the Business

A copy of the business plan template can be found on the Small Business Bureau's website (www.sbb.gov.gy)

12.

2. For 2022, to date, there are twenty (20) businesses located in the Eccles to Moblissa area, that have benefitted from grants. It is important to note that these grants do not include businesspersons whose personal place of residence is located between Eccles to Moblissa, but their business' registered address is situated elsewhere in Guyana.
3. The Small Business Bureau, Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce has a strict policy that governs the confidentiality of client information. Therefore, specific identifying information such as the names and addresses of these businesses cannot and will not be provided.

This is essential to protect clients of the Small Business Bureau from political attacks, marketing spam, fraud, and other intrusions. Further, the ethical storage of personal details, data and other private information is important for maintaining the trust of clients.”

For Oral Replies

*6. **DOCTORS, REGISTERED NURSES & NURSING ASSISTANTS WHO VOLUNTARILY LEFT THE LINDEN HOSPITAL**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of doctors, registered nurses, and nursing assistants who have voluntarily left the Linden Hospital, between August 2020 to June 30, 2022?

(Notice Paper No. 200 (Q148 Opp.148) published on 2022-11-02)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

*7. **DOCTORS, REGISTERED NURSES & NURSING ASSISTANTS WHO WERE DISMISSED/CONTRACTS NOT RENEWED BY THE LINDEN HOSPITAL**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

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13.

*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of doctors, registered nurses, and nursing assistants who were dismissed, or contracts were not renewed by the Linden Hospital, between August 2020 to June 30, 2022?

(Notice Paper No. 201 (Q149 Opp.149) published on 2022-11-02)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

*8. **DOCTORS, REGISTERED NURSES & NURSING ASSISTANTS WHO WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LINDEN HOSPITAL**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of doctors, registered nurses, and nursing assistants who were transferred from the Linden Hospital, between August 2020 to June 30, 2022?

(Notice Paper No. 202 (Q150 Opp.150) published on 2022-11-02)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - HIRE-PURCHASE BILL 2020 – Bill No. 14/2020 published on 2020-11-10

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the regulation of hire-purchase, credit sale and conditional sale agreements; and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2020-12-23 and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2021-02-11)

14.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Amanza Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Susan Rodrigues, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Housing & Water

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

A motion by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce for the adoption of the Report of the Special Select Committee with all amendments to the Hire Purchase Bill 2020 was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, the Hire Purchase Bill 2020 was read a third time and passed as amended.

15.

(ii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

MOTION

**ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2016**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2016, be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 193 (M48 Committees 12) published on 2022-07-12)

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

Thereafter, Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.47 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Monday, 5th December, 2022.

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

16.

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

30th, November 2022.