

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 56TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY, 2023,
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 (Absent on – Leave)

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

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

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 (Virtual – Participation)

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. (Virtual – Participation)

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

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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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
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. 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.
Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.
Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Virtual – Participation)
Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.
Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P. (Absent)
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. 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

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 10.14 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

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

The Customs (Amendment of First Schedule) Order 2023 – No. 9 of 2023.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Replies

1. ***PERSONS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., on behalf of the Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports the following question:

*Can the Minister inform this House whether his Ministry provided any post COVID (Material) relief to the persons in the performing Arts, specifically, to return to theater performance? **(Notice Paper No. 212 (Q160 Opp.160) published on 2022-11-02)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports replied.

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6.

2. ***CONSULTANCIES FOR THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORTS**

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., on behalf of the Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports the following questions:

Can the Minister inform this House of the following:

1. (a)* How many Consultants were employed by his Ministry between September 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022?
- (b)* What are the names of the Consultants, the length of each of their contracts, and the specific nature of the consultancy each Consultant had to provide to the Ministry?
- (c)* What was the fee paid to each of the Consultants as per contract?

(Notice Paper No. 213 (Q161 Opp.161) published on 2022-11-02)

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports replied.

3. ***SYNTHETIC TRACK IN LINDEN**

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., on behalf of the Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports the following question:

*Can the Minister inform this House when will work on the Synthetic Track in Linden recommence and when will it conclude?

(Notice Paper No. 216 (Q162 Opp.162) published on 2022-11-02)

Thereafter, the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports replied.

7.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023- No. 3/2023

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2023 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2023

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2023.

(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance on 2023-01-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Vinceroy Jordan, M.P.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 1.06 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.38 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

8.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2023.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P.

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Hon. Geeta Chandon-Edmond, M.P.

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

At 4.57 p.m., while the Hon. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Hon. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Devin Sears, M.P.

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

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 6.19 p.m., while the Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Speaker returned to the Chair.

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

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Lee Williams, M.P.

Hon. Beverly Alert, M.P.

9.

Hon. Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Bheri Ramsarran, M.P.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.10 p.m., on a motion by the Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, 26th January, 2023.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

25th, January 2023.