

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 58TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON FRIDAY, 27th 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

Vice-President (1)

Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President (Absent on – Leave)

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 (Virtual – Participation)

*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 (Virtual – Participation)

*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 Work (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.

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)

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.
Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.
Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.
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 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcement:

Visit by the Political and Economic Analyst of the United States Embassy

The Speaker informed Members that Mr. Brian Hall, Political and Economic Analyst of the United States Embassy was present at that day's Sitting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Replies

1. *INDOOR FACILITY FOR LINDEN

Hon. David Patterson, 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 the work on the Indoor Facility for Linden commence and when is it likely to conclude?

(Notice Paper No. 217 (Q163 Opp.163) published on 2022-11-02)

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

6.

2. *PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION OF CANE LOADERS

Hon. Vinceroy Jordan, 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 on following questions regarding the procurement and utilization of cane loaders purchased by Guysuco after August 2020:

- a) *What is the number of cane loaders that were procured by Guysuco between September 2020 and October 31, 2022?
- b) *What is the cost of each cane loader procured?
- c) *Please state whether there was a process of public bidding (state date and medium of advertisement) for the cane loaders and who won the bid?
- d) *If there was no bidding process, please say who was given the contract and the basis for doing so, including if the Guysuco Board played a role?
- e) *Please state where each of the cane loaders purchased between September 2020 and October 31, 2022, are presently located and the date they arrived at that location?
- f) *Please state how many man hours each of the loaders purchased between September 2020 and October 31, 2022, worked at their present location since arriving there?
- g) *Please state how many of the cane loaders purchased between September 2020 and October 31, 2022, are in a ready to work condition if they were needed by Guysuco at 1st November 2022?
- h) *Please state how many man hours were available at each estate for cane loaders to work between September 2020 and October 31, 2022?
- i) *Did Guysuco Board recommend the purchase of these specific types of cane loaders?
- j) *What was the country of origin of the cane loaders and is this the same country from which pre 2020 cane loaders were procured from?

(Notice Paper No. 226 (Q170 Opp.170) published on 2022-12-12)

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

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7.

In accordance with Standing Orders No. 22(9), the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs, moved that the answers to the following questions be deferred:

3. *PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR DEATH, MARRIAGE, AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Member Asking: Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Minister inform this House of the number of pending applications at the General Register Office for:

- a) *Death certificates for the years 2018, 2021 and at 31st October 2022?
- b) *Marriage certificates for the years 2018, 2021 and at 31st October 2022?
- c) *Birth Certificates for the years 2018, 2021 and at 31st October 2022?

(Notice Paper No. 227 (Q171 Opp.171) published on 2022-12-12)

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

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8.

**VISIT BY FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MAYOR OF GEORGETOWN
AND OTHERS**

The Speaker acknowledged the presence of former Members of Parliament, Mr. Ernest Elliot, Ms. Genevieve Allen, His Worship, the Mayor of Georgetown, Panditji Mr. Ubraj Narine and Colonel Ronald Hercules.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Government Chief Whip

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 1.14 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.31 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

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. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

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

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

At 4.41 p.m., while the Hon. Aubrey Norton, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 4.46 p.m., while the Hon. Aubrey Norton, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Speaker returned to the Chair.

Hon. Aubrey Norton, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE A PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIONAL UNITY & ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

At 5.05 p.m., the Members of the A Partnership for National Unity & Alliance for Change withdrew from the chamber.

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

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

At 5.49 p.m., while the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 6.46 p.m., while the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance was speaking to the motion, the Speaker returned to the Chair.

10.

Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance continued and concluded his speech.

CONCLUSION OF BUDGET DEBATE

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2023, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and approve of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on, Thursday, 26th January, 2023, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2023 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, and passed a Resolution on the matter.

Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Timetable were circulated to Members at today's Sitting.

On a motion by the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in its Resolution.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Supply would commence consideration of the 2023 Estimates of Expenditure at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 30th January, 2023.

Assembly resumed

11.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.37 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 30th January, 2023.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

27th January, 2023.