

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 (Virtual – Participation)

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 (Virtual – Participation)

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Sonia S. Parag, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

**Junior Ministers (4)**

Hon. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the  
Ministry of Housing and Water

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Work

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) (Virtual – Participation)

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 (Virtual – Participation)

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. Vincero 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. (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.  
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. (Virtual – Participation)  
Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)  
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. Jaiprakash, 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 11.44 a.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk led in Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

**VISIT BY ACTRESS MS. LETITIA WRIGHT**

The Speaker announced the presence of Ms. Letitia Wright, Actress, and welcomed her to that Sitting.

**ADDRESS BY MS. LETITIA WRIGHT**

Ms. Letitia Wright made a brief address to the Assembly.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister, on behalf of all the Members of Parliament and the staff of the Parliament Office, welcomed Ms. Letitia Wright to the National Assembly and wished her an enjoyable stay in Guyana. The Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P., Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the Speaker of the National Assembly joined the Prime Minister in welcoming Ms. Wright.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 11.53 p.m., the Sitting was suspended to allow Ms. Letitia Wright to leave the Assembly.

6.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 12.18 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

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

Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments which addresses matters relating to the nomination and appointment of Members to the Ethnic Relations Commission.

(Circulated)

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

#### **For Oral Replies**

#### **1. \*PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR DEATH, MARRIAGE, AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following questions:

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)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

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7.

**2. \*WAITING TIME FOR DEATH, MARRIAGE, AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following questions:

Can the Minister inform this House what is the waiting time after an application received by the Guyana Register Office for applicants to receive:

- 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. 228 (Q172 Opp.172) published on 2022-12-12)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

**3. \*PASSPORT APPLICATIONS**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following questions:

1. \*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of pending passport applications for the years 2020, 2021 and at October 2022 for each of the ten regions of Guyana?
2. \*Can the Minister also inform this House what is the waiting time to receive a passport after an application is received by the Central Immigration Office of Guyana for the years 2018, 2020, 2021 and at October 2022?
3. \*Can the Minister further inform this House what is the waiting time to receive a passport after an application is received, at the other sub-offices in Guyana other than, that are providing those services for the years 2018, 2020, 2021, and at 31st October 2022.

**(Notice Paper No. 229 (Q173 Opp.173) published on 2022-12-12)**

8.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

#### **MOTIONS**

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

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider 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)**

#### **In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

#### **07- PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

##### **Current Expenditure**

071 National Assembly

##### **Capital Expenditure**

071 National Assembly

#### **08- AUDIT OFFICE OF GUYANA**

##### **Current Expenditure**

081 Audit Office

##### **Capital Expenditure**

081 Audit Office



**09– PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS**

**Current Expenditure**

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

**Capital Expenditure**

091 Public and Police Service Commission

**10 – TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

101 Teaching Service Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

101 Teaching Service Commission

**11 – GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

111 Elections Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

111 Elections Commission

**55 – SUPREME COURT**

**Current Expenditure**

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

**Capital Expenditure**

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

**56 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

**Current Expenditure**

561 Public Prosecutions

**Capital Expenditure**

561 Public Prosecutions

**57 – OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

**Current Expenditure**

571 Ombudsman

**Capital Expenditure**

571 Ombudsman

**58 – PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

**Current Expenditure**

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**59 – ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

591 Ethnic Relations Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

591 Ethnic Relations Commission

**60 – JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

601 Judicial Service Commission

**61 – RIGHTS COMMISSIONS OF GUYANA**

**Current Expenditure**

611 Rights Commissions of Guyana

11.

**Capital Expenditure**

611 Rights Commissions of Guyana

**62 – PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

621 Public Procurement Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

621 Public Procurement Commission

Assembly resumed.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 1.55 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3.05 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**01 – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Current Expenditure**

011 Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

011 Administration

**Current Expenditure**

012 National Policy Development and Presidential Advisory Services

**Capital Expenditure**

012 National Policy Development and Presidential Advisory Services

**Current Expenditure**

013 Defence and National Security

**Capital Expenditure**

013 Defence and National Security

**Current Expenditure**

014 Public Policy and Planning

**Capital Expenditure**

014 Public Policy and Planning

**Current Expenditure**

015 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Capital Expenditure**

015 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Current Expenditure**

016 Police Complaints Authority

**Capital Expenditure**

016 Police Complaints Authority

**53-Guyana Defence Force**

**Current Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**Capital Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**06 – MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE**

**Current Expenditure**

061 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

061 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

062 Parliamentary Affairs

**Capital Expenditure**

062 Parliamentary Affairs

**Current Expenditure**

063 Governance

**Capital Expenditure**

063 Governance

**02 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**Current Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Capital Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Current Expenditure**

022 Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

**Capital Expenditure**

022 Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

**Capital Expenditure**

023 Power Generation

**Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.,**

At 5.46 p.m., during consideration of Agency 02-023 – Office of the Prime Minister – Power Generation – Capital Expenditure, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

**Capital Expenditure**

023 Power Generation

**Current Expenditure**

024 Telecommunications and Innovation

**Capital Expenditure**

024 Telecommunications and Innovation

**Current Expenditure**

025 Government Information and Communication Services

**Capital Expenditure**

025 Government Information and Communication Services

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 6.34 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

**52 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

521 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

521 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Capital Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Current Expenditure**

524 State Solicitor

**Capital Expenditure**

524 State Solicitor

**12 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Current Expenditure**

121 Development of Foreign Policy

**Capital Expenditure**

121 Development of Foreign Policy

**Current Expenditure**

122 Foreign Policy Promotion

**Capital Expenditure**

122 Foreign Policy Promotion

**Current Expenditure**

123 Development of Foreign Trade Policy

**Capital Expenditure**

123 Development of Foreign Trade Policy

**14 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Current Expenditure**

141 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

141 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

142 Human Resource Development

**Capital Expenditure**

142 Human Resource Development



17.

**Current Expenditure**

143 Human Resource Management & Technology

**Capital Expenditure**

143 Human Resource Management & Technology

**16 – MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

161 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

161 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

162 Community Development and Empowerment

**Capital Expenditure**

162 Community Development and Empowerment

**Assembly resumed.**

18.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8.23 p.m., on a motion by the Minister and Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manzoor Nadir". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

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

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

**30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.**