

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 60TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON TUESDAY, 31st 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

*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 (Virtual –
Participation)

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 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. (Absent)

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.
Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.
Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.
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. 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.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

***NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Hon. Jermaine Figueira asked the Minister of Health the following questions:

Can the Minister inform this House on the following questions of the New Headquarters of the Ministry of Health:

- a) *What was the date of the termination of contract for the new headquarters building in 2020?
- b) *What was the cost of the original contract and how much was expended at August 2020?
- c) *What were the reasons given for the termination of the original contract?
- d) *What is the life of the new contract (start and finish dates), and who is the new contractor?
- e) *Did the new contract modify (include changes to) the size of the building as existed at August 2020?
- f) *What is the cost of the new contract?
- g) *What is the percentage of work completed at 31st October, 2022, in keeping with the new contract?

(Notice Paper No. 230 (Q174 Opp.174) published on 2022-12-12)

6.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Warren McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister asked the Minister of Health a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Charles Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports asked the Minister of Health a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., asked the Minister supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health 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)

7.

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:

21 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Current Expenditure

211 Ministry Administration

Capital Expenditure

211 Ministry Administration

Current Expenditure

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

Capital Expenditure

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

Current Expenditure

213 Fisheries

Capital Expenditure

213 Fisheries

Current Expenditure

214 Hydrometeorological Services

Capital Expenditure

214 Hydrometeorological Services

23 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Current Expenditure

231 Policy Development and Administration

8.

Capital Expenditure

231 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

232 Business Development, Support and Promotion

Capital Expenditure

232 Business Development, Support and Promotion

Current Expenditure

233 Consumer Protection

Capital Expenditure

233 Consumer Protection

Current Expenditure

234 Tourism Development and Promotion

Capital Expenditure

234 Tourism Development and Promotion

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.37 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.49 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:

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26 – MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Current Expenditure

261 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

261 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

262 Natural Resource Management

Capital Expenditure

262 Natural Resource Management

Current Expenditure

264 Petroleum Management

Capital Expenditure

264 Petroleum Management

31 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Current Expenditure

311 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

311 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

312 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

312 Public Works

Current Expenditure

313 Transport

10.

Capital Expenditure

313 Transport

38 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Current Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

382 Labour Administration Services

Capital Expenditure

382 Labour Administration Services

39 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Current Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

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

At 5.19 p.m., during consideration of Agency 39-391 – Ministry of Human Services and Social Security – Policy Development and Administration – Current Expenditure, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Capital Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

392 Social Services

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 5.58 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Capital Expenditure

392 Social Services

Current Expenditure

393 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

393 Child Care and Protection

45 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

Current Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

452 Housing Development

Capital Expenditure

452 Housing Development

Current Expenditure

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

Capital Expenditure

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

40 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Current Expenditure

401 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

401 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

402 Training and Development

Capital Expenditure

402 Training and Development

Current Expenditure

403 Nursery Education

Capital Expenditure

403 Nursery Education

Current Expenditure

404 Primary Education

Capital Expenditure

404 Primary Education

Current Expenditure

405 Secondary Education

Capital Expenditure

405 Secondary Education

Current Expenditure

406 Post - Secondary/Tertiary Education

Capital Expenditure

406 Post - Secondary/Tertiary Education

44 – MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS

Current Expenditure

441 Policy Development and Administration

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

At 8.27 p.m., during consideration of Agency 44-441 – Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports – Policy Development and Administration – Current Expenditure, 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 8.31 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Capital Expenditure

441 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

442 Culture

Capital Expenditure

442 Culture

Current Expenditure

443 Youth

Capital Expenditure

443 Youth

14.

Current Expenditure

444 Sports

Capital Expenditure

444 Sports

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.38 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 1st February, 2023.



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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

31st January, 2023.

