

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 61ST 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, 1ST FEBRUARY, 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 (Virtual-Participation)

*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 (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)

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. (Absent)

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

/...4

***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. (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. (Absent)
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 (Virtual – Participation)

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.

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:

13 – MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Current Expenditure

131 Policy Development and Administration

6.

Capital Expenditure

131 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

133 Regional Development

Capital Expenditure

133 Regional Development

Current Expenditure

134 Local Government Development

Capital Expenditure

134 Local Government Development

71 – REGION NO. 1: BARIMA/WAINI

Current Expenditure

711 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

711 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

712 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

712 Public Works

Current Expenditure

713 Education Delivery

7.

Capital Expenditure

713 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

714 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

714 Health Services

Current Expenditure

715 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

715 Agriculture

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.41 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.07 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:

8.

72 – REGION NO.2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

Current Expenditure

721 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

721 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

722 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

722 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

723 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

723 Public Works

Current Expenditure

724 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

724 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

725 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

725 Health Services

9.

73 – REGION NO. 3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

Current Expenditure

731 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

731 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

732 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

732 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

733 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

733 Public Works

Current Expenditure

734 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

734 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

735 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

735 Health Services

74 – REGION NO. 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

Current Expenditure

741 Regional Administration and Finance

10.

Capital Expenditure

741 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

742 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

742 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

743 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

743 Public Works

Current Expenditure

744 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

744 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

745 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

745 Health Services

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

At 5.26 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

11.

75 – REGION NO. 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

Current Expenditure

751 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

751 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

752 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

752 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

753 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

753 Public Works

Current Expenditure

754 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

754 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

755 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

755 Health Services

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 5.53 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.55 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.38 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:

76 – REGION NO. 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

Current Expenditure

761 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

761 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

762 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

762 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

763 Public Works

13.

Capital Expenditure

763 Public Works

Current Expenditure

764 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

764 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

765 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

765 Health Services

77 – REGION NO. 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

Current Expenditure

771 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

771 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

772 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

772 Public Works

Current Expenditure

773 Education Delivery

/...14

14.

Capital Expenditure

773 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

774 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

774 Health Services

Current Expenditure

775 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

775 Agriculture

78 – REGION NO. 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

Current Expenditure

781 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

781 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

782 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

782 Public Works

Current Expenditure

783 Education Delivery

15.

Capital Expenditure

783 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

784 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

784 Health Services

Current Expenditure

785 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

785 Agriculture

79 – REGION NO. 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

Current Expenditure

791 Regional Administration and Finance

Capital Expenditure

791 Regional Administration and Finance

Current Expenditure

792 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

792 Agriculture

Current Expenditure

793 Public Works

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16.

Capital Expenditure

793 Public Works

Current Expenditure

794 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

794 Education Delivery

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

At 8.55 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

Current Expenditure

795 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

795 Health Services

80 – REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE

Current Expenditure

801 Regional Administration and Finance

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 9.32 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Capital Expenditure

801 Regional Administration and Finance

17.

Current Expenditure

802 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

802 Public Works

Current Expenditure

803 Education Delivery

Capital Expenditure

803 Education Delivery

Current Expenditure

804 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

804 Health Services

Current Expenditure

805 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

805 Agriculture

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.29 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 2nd February, 2023.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

1st February, 2023.