

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 64<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 WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 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 (Virtual-Participation)

**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 (Absent – on leave)

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

**\*Non-Elected Member**

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

\*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

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional  
Development (Virtual-Participation)

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) (Virtual-Participation)

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.

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. 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. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P.

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 10.23 a.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk led in Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

The Speaker extended birthday greetings to the Hon. Vickram Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

- (1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairperson of the Committee of Selection):  
Minutes of Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

- (i) Audited Financial Statements of the Integrity Commission for the years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 to 2019.

(Circulated)

6.

- (ii) Audited Financial Statements of the Public/Police Service Commission for the years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, 2018 and 2020.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Audited Financial Statements of the Protected Areas Commission for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Audited Financial Statements of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology for the years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 to 2019.

(Circulated)

- (v) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Audited Financial Statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 to 2018.

(Circulated)

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

#### **For Written Replies**

1. **CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR LAND PREPARATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS BY CENTRAL HOUSING & PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

Can the Honourable Minister provide the list of contractors that were awarded Contracts in 2021 by the Central Housing and Planning Authority for land preparation and infrastructural works for lands identified for house lots and which must include the contract sum for each award, acreage, and location?

**(Notice Paper No. 245 (Q184 Opp.184) published on 2023-03-06)**

7.

**ANSWER**

See **Appendix (1)**.

2. **PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

Could the Honourable Minister of Housing and Water provide this National Assembly with the following information:

A list detailing the names of firms, companies or individuals who have been prequalified for infrastructural works with the Ministry of Housing and Water from August 2, 2020 to January 31, 2023?

**(Notice Paper No. 246 (Q185 Opp.185) published on 2023-03-06)**

**ANSWER**

“Prequalification for Infrastructure works is not done by the Ministry of Housing and Water”.

3. **ASSESSMENT FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE \$5B**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

The National Budget of 2023 has a provision of \$5B for the alleviation of the High Cost of Living, (budget speech 2023, page 91).

Can the Honorable Minister with responsibility for Finance make available to the National Assembly, copy or copies of the assessment done, which led to the determination of the \$5B?

**(Notice Paper No. 249 (Q188 Opp.188) published on 2023-03-06)**

**ANSWER**

As part of the suite of Budget 2023 Measures amounting to over \$50 billion, \$5 billion has been allocated for additional cost of living measures to be determined from ongoing community engagements. This allocation was determined within the macro-economic context of resource availability.

**STANDING ORDERS NOS 112 and 22(9)**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 112 and Standing Order No. 22(9) the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, asked that the following questions be **deferred**:

**For Oral Replies**

4. **\*REMUNERATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE FUND**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

According to the Official Gazette of Guyana dated 30<sup>th</sup> August of 2022, a Chairman and four (4) Directors were appointed as Members of the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund.

Additionally, a Chairman and eight (8) committee members were appointed as members of the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee and a Chairman and six (6) members were appointed to the Natural Resource Fund Investment Committee.

\*In keeping with the Natural Resource Fund Act Section 5 (9) which states “the Directors shall be paid such remuneration in respect of their office as the Minister may determine from time to time”, can the Hon. Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibilities for Finance provide to the National Assembly the total remuneration for the Chairman and Directors of the Board of Directors?



(Notice Paper No. 250 (Q189 Opp.189) published on 2023-03-06)

**5. \*REMUNERATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

According to the Official Gazette of Guyana dated 30<sup>th</sup> August of 2022, a Chairman and four (4) Directors were appointed as Members of the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund.

Additionally, a Chairman and eight (8) committee members were appointed as members of the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee and a Chairman and six (6) members were appointed to the Natural Resource Fund Investment Committee.

\*In keeping with the Natural Resource Fund Act Section 6 (8) which states “the Members shall be paid such remuneration in respect of their office as the Minister may determine from time to time”, can the Hon. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibilities for Finance provide to the National Assembly the total remuneration for the Chairman and Members of the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee?

(Notice Paper No. 251 (Q190 Opp.190) published on 2023-03-06)

**6. \*REMUNERATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

According to the Official Gazette of Guyana dated 30<sup>th</sup> August of 2022, a Chairman and four (4) Directors were appointed as Members of the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund.

10.

Additionally, a Chairman and eight (8) committee members were appointed as members of the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee and a Chairman and six (6) members were appointed to the Natural Resource Fund Investment Committee.

\*In keeping with the Natural Resource Fund Act Section 8 (3) which states “the Members shall be paid such remuneration in respect of their office as the Minister may determine from time to time”, can the Hon. Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibilities for Finance provide to the National Assembly the total remuneration for the Chairman and Members of the Investment Committee?

**(Notice Paper No. 252 (Q191 Opp.191) published on 2023-03-06)**

**STANDING ORDER 22(9)**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Minister of Housing and Water, asked that the following questions be **deferred**:

**7. \*CONSTRUCTION OF THE HAAGS BOSCH MAIN ROAD**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

- (a) \*Can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly of the names of the contractors who have been awarded contracts, a disaggregation of the project sum to each contractor, and lots awarded to each contractor?
- (b) \*Can the Minister also state the duration of the contract and what is the full dimension, in terms of width and depth of the road on completion?

11.

- (c) \*Can the Minister indicate to this Assembly what are the safety features along the project site?

**(Notice Paper No. 247 (Q186 Opp.186) published on 2023-03-06)**

**8. \*PROVISION OF \$5B FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF THE HIGH COST OF LIVING**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

The National Budget of 2023 has a provision of \$5B for the alleviation of the High Cost of Living (budget speech 2023, page 91).

1. \*Could the Honourable Minister with responsibility for Finance state what established criterion was set out for the distribution of the monies and how can persons access the forms?
2. \*Can the Minister inform the National Assembly of what assessment was used to arrive at \$5B to address the high cost of living?
3. \*Can the Minister state whether there is a capped sum from the \$5B across regions? If yes, kindly provide a disaggregation per region?
4. \*Can the Minister inform this Assembly when the \$5B is expected to be rolled out across the regions?
5. \*Can the Minister inform the National Assembly what mechanisms are in place to ensure timely announcements are made?

**(Notice Paper No. 248 (Q187 Opp.187) published on 2023-03-06)**

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON  
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**To Discuss a Definite matter of Urgent Public Importance, To Wit, The Recent Ruling of  
Justice Sandil Kissoon in the Court Matter**

A request by the Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., to move the adjournment of the Assembly on a Definite Matters of Urgent Importance to discuss the Recent Ruling of Justice Sandil Kissoon in the court matter concerning insurance coverage to safeguard Guyana against the devastating effects of potential oil spill, was disallowed by the Speaker due to it being “*sub-judice*” in nature.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**(ii) GOVERNMENT’S BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**Deferral of Financial Papers**

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, the following Financial Papers were deferred:

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2023 – CAPITAL  
ESTIMATES**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2023 - Supplementary Estimates (Capital) – Advances made from the Contingency Fund totalling \$4,743,000,000 for the period 2023-03-01 to 2023-04-20.

13.

(Notice Paper No. 258 (M62 Govt. 31) published on 2023-04-24)

(Paper presented on 2023-04-24)

**ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2023 – CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2023 - Supplementary Estimates (Capital) totalling \$26,532,000,000 for the period ending 2023-12-31

(Notice Paper No. 259 (M63 Govt. 32) published on 2023-04-24)

(Paper presented on 2023-04-24)

**(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 3 - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS NOS. 20(2), (3) AND 27(2)**

Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS questions and motions submitted by Members of the National Assembly require approval from the Speaker of the National Assembly before the Clerk of the National Assembly prepares and circulate to Members, a Notice Paper,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 20(2) be removed and replaced with, “Questions and Motions submitted to the Clerk of the National Assembly must be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly within four (4) days of receipt, who shall consider the Questions and Motions.”;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 20(3) be inserted and now reads, “If the Speaker is of the opinion that any question of which a member has given notice to the Clerk or which a member has sought permission to ask without notice, is an abuse of the right of questioning or infringes any of the provisions of this or any other Standing Order, he or she may within four (4) days direct:

- (a) That it be printed or asked with such alterations as he or she may direct; or
- (b) That the Member concerned be informed that the question is inadmissible.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 27(2) be amended to now read, “If the Speaker is of the opinion that any notice of motion which has been received by the Clerk of the National Assembly infringes the provisions of any Standing Order or is in any other way out of order, he or she may, within four (4) days, direct:

- (a) That the Member concerned be informed that the notice of motion is out of order; or
- (b) That the notice of motion be entered in the Order Book with such alterations as he or she may direct.

**(Notice Paper No. 236 (M 58 Opp 10) published on 2023-02-13)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.  
Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.  
Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P.  
Hon. Alister Charlie, M.P.  
Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.  
Hon. David Patterson, M.P.  
Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

15.

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

Thereafter, Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., replied.

The motion was **put** and **negatived** on the following division:

**AGAINST**

Dr. Kissoon  
Ms. Veerasammy  
Mr. Williams  
Dr. Smith  
Mr. Jaffarally  
Dr. Westford  
Dr. Ramsaran  
Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks  
Mr. Narine  
Mr. Datadin  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Charlie  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. McCoy  
Mr. A. Persaud  
Mr. Indar  
Ms. Rodrigues  
Ms. Parag  
Mr. Ramson  
Dr. V. Persaud  
Mr. Croal

**FOR**

Mr. Sears  
Mr. Sinclair  
Ms. Alert  
Ms. Philadelphia  
Mr. Jaiprashad  
Mrs. Flue-Bess  
Mr. Rajkumar  
Mr. Mahipaul  
Mr. Figueira  
Mr. Cox  
Mr. Patterson  
Ms. Fernandes  
Ms. Ferguson  
Mrs. Singh-Lewis  
Mrs. Sarabo-Halley  
Dr. Cummings  
Mr. Henry  
Mr. Ramsaroop  
Ms. McDonald  
Mrs. Walton-Desir  
Mr. Jordan

15.

Mr. Dharamlall  
Mr. Bharrat  
Mr. Hamilton  
Ms. Sukhai  
Mr. Mustapha  
Ms. Manichchand  
Dr. Anthony  
Bishop Edghill  
Mr. Todd  
Ms. Teixeira  
Mr. Nandlall  
Mr. Jadgeo  
Mr. Phillips

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Mr. Jones  
Mrs. Hastings-Williams  
Mrs. Lawrence  
Mr. Duncan  
Mrs. Chandan-Edmond  
Mrs. Hughes  
Mr. Holder  
Mr. Forde  
Mr. Ramjattan  
Mr. Norton

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### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 1.57 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3.20 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.



**(ii) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 4 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 –**  
**Bill No. 7/2023 published on 2023-04-24**

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

**(Read a first time on 2023-04-24)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**In Committee**

**Clause 1** was passed as printed.

**Clause 2** was passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2023 was read a third time and passed as printed.

18.

**ITEM 5 - THE COMBATING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL 2023 – Bill  
No. 6 of 2023 published on 2023-04-18**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide comprehensive measures to combat trafficking in persons and for connected matters.

**(Read a first time on 2023-04-24)**

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

At 4.25 p.m., while the Minister of Human Services and Social Security was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dineshwar Jaiprashad, M.P.

Hon. Brindley Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 5.26 p.m., while the Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.35 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.25 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Allister Charlie, M.P.

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Human Services and Social Security replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

### **In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 12** were passed as printed.

### **Clause 13**

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P., seconded by Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., moved the following amendments which were withdrawn:

Clause 13(1) – “In the second line between the words, ‘fine’ and ‘of ten million dollars’ insert the words, ‘not less than’”

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

20.

Clause 13(1) – “In the second line between the words, ‘fine’ and ‘of ten million dollars’ insert the words ‘not less than’. Further, after the words, ‘ten million dollars’, insert the words, ‘nor more than fifteen million dollars.’”

Clause 13 was then passed as amended.

**Clauses 14 - 22** were passed as printed.

**Clause 23**

The Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P., seconded by Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and negatived:

Clause 23(5) – “In the third line, delete the words, ‘five hundred thousand dollars’, and insert the words, ‘one million dollars’. Further, in the fourth line, delete the word, ‘exceeding’ and insert the words, ‘less than’”.

Clause 23 was passed as printed.

**Clauses 24 - 59** were passed as printed.

**Schedules 1 and 2** were passed as printed.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill 2023 was read a third time and passed as amended.

**ITEM 6 - FOREIGN JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2023 –**  
**Bill No. 4/2023 published on 2023-04-17**

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was **deferred**:

21.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act, and to make new provision for the enforcement of foreign judgments given in countries outside of Guyana which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in Guyana and for related matters.

**(Read a first time on 2023-04-24)**

**ITEM 7 - NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY BILL 2023 –  
Bill No. 5/2023 published on 2023-04-17**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 54(1)(c), the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved that the following Bill be referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish the body known as the National Intelligence and Security Agency as the Agency to further enhance the State's defence and security policy stated in article 197A of the Constitution, to provide for the Agency to be responsible for the coordination of the State's defence and law enforcement activities relating to national intelligence and security, and to provide national intelligence and security advice to the President, Cabinet and entities in the security sector, and for connected matters.

**(Read a first time on 2023-04-24)**

**(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 8 - ADOPTION OF THE EIGHTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services), moved the following motion:

22.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Eighth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services, for the period 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, be adopted.

**(Notice Paper No. 194 (M49 Committees 13) published on 2022-07-12)**

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Human Services and Social Security replied.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

**ITEM 9 - ADOPTION OF THE FIRST SPECIAL REPORT OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services), moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the First Special Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services be adopted.

**(Notice Paper No. 257 (M 61 Committees 19) published on 2023-04- 13)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P.

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., replied.

23.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.14 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

.....

**HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,**

**Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

**10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.**