

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 65th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 20TH JULY, 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)

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

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. 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 (Virtual-Participation)

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

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.

Hon. Nandranie Coonjah, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

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.(Absent)

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P.

Hon. Shurwayne F.K. Holder, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)(Virtual-Participation)

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. 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)(Virtual-Participation)

A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement (ANUG, LJP & TNM) (1)

Hon. Dr. Asha Kisoorn, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

Ms. Nandranie Coonjah

The Speaker stated that, following the resignation of Mr. Nigel Dharamlall on July 4, 2023, and his call upon the Representative of the List from the Peoples Progressive Party Civic (PPP/c) List of Candidates, He was informed that the name of Ms. Nandranie Coonjah was extracted from the Region 2 List of Candidates and that Ms. Nandranie Coonjah was, on 17th July, 2023, declared by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

He also stated that before Ms. Coonjah can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, she was required to make and subscribe to the Oath of Office before the National Assembly, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution.

As Ms. Coonjah was present, the oath was administered to her by the Clerk.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 3 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Speaker invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Speaker.

6.

Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, proposed and Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., seconded the nomination of Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. for Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

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

FOR

Mr. Sears
Mr. Sinclair
Ms. Alert
Ms. Philadelphia
Mr. Jaiprashad
Mrs. Flue-Bess
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mahipaul
Mr. Figueira
Mr. Cox
Ms. Fernandes
Ms. Ferguson
Mrs. Singh-Lewis
Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Henry
Ms. Mc Donald
Mrs. Walton-Desir
Mr. Jones
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Duncan

AGAINST

Ms. Coonjah
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
Mr. Bharrat

DECLINED TO VOTE

Dr. Kissoon

7.

Mrs. Chandan-Edmond

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Holder

Mr. Norton

Mr. Hamilton

Ms. Sukhai

Mr. Mustapha

Ms. Manickchand

Dr. Anthony

Bishop Edghill

Mr. Todd

Ms. Teixeira

Mr. Nandlall

Mr. Phillips

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1

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, proposed and seconded by Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Education the nomination of Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P. for Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

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

DECLINED TO VOTE

Mr. Sears

Mr. Sinclair

Ms. Alert

Ms. Philadelphia

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mahipaul

FOR

Dr. Kissoon

Ms. Coonjah

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mr. Figueira
 Mr. Cox
 Mr. Patterson
 Ms. Fernandes
 Ms. Ferguson
 Mrs. Singh-Lewis
 Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
 Dr. Cummings
 Mr. Henry
 Mr. Ramsaroop
 Ms. Mc Donald
 Mrs. Walton-Desir
 Mr. Jones
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. Duncan
 Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Holder
 Mr. Forde
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Norton

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
 Mr. Bharrat
 Mr. Hamilton
 Ms. Sukhai
 Mr. Mustapha
 Ms. Manickchand
 Dr. Anthony
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Todd
 Ms. Teixeira
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Phillips

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

(1) Welcome to New Member

The Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and himself, welcomed and congratulated Ms. Nandranie Coonjah, M.P., on her becoming a Member of the National Assembly.

(2) Congratulations to Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., on her election as Deputy Speake of the National Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

1. By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Annual Report of the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee for the fiscal year 2022.

(Circulated)

2. By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

(i) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission for the year ended 31st December, 2017.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the years 2021 and 2022.

(Circulated)

3. By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:

(i) Annual Report of the Natural Resource Fund for the fiscal year 2022.

(Circulated)

10.

- (ii) The Customs (Amendment of First Schedule) (No. 2) Order 2023 – No. 44 of 2023.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Government Notice No. 3/2023, regarding Notification Receipts of all petroleum revenues paid into the Natural Resource Fund during the period 1st April, 2023 to 30th June, 2023.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Amendatory Agreement dated March 6, 2023, between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to revise Loan Contract No. 3824/BL-GY (Amendment No. 1) dated February 21, 2017 to finance the “*Enhancing the National Quality Infrastructure for Economic Diversification and Trade Promotion*” Program. This revision amends the Program’s name to “*Enhancing the National Quality Infrastructure for Competitiveness*” and allows for the transition from a LIBOR-based interest rate to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate).

(Circulated)

- (v) Loan Contract No. 5594/OC-GY dated March 6, 2023, between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to provide additional financing of US\$8,000,000 to facilitate the execution of the *Enhancing the National Quality Infrastructure for Competitiveness* Program.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Loan Contract No. 5629/OC-GY dated March 6, 2023, between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$100,000,000 to finance the execution of the Program to *Support Climate Resilient Road Infrastructure Development*.

(Circulated)

11.

- (vii) Agreement No. GY-O0010 dated March 6, 2023, to establish a Conditional Credit Line for Investment Projects (CCLIP), between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), for an amount of US\$160,000,000.

(Circulated)

- (viii) Loan Contract No. 5706/OC-GY dated March 6, 2023, between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$97,000,000, to finance the first individual operation for the Health Care Network Strengthening Project in Guyana. This Project will be financed through the abovementioned Conditional Credit Line Agreement.

(Circulated)

- (ix) Amendatory Agreement dated April 13, 2023 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to revise Section I (Definitions) and Section 3.1 (Payments) of Schedule III (Sale General Terms and Conditions) of the original Financing Agreement dated June 25, 2020 in the amount of US\$14,630,000 for the purpose of financing the Small Hydro Project.

(Circulated)

- (x) Framework and Agency Agreements No. GUY-1025 dated 23/10/1444H corresponding to 13/05/2023G (May 13, 2023), between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), for an amount of US\$200,000,000 to finance the Reconstruction of the Soesdyke Linden Highway Project.

(Circulated)

12.

- (xi) Loan Agreement No. 1/796 signed on 16/11/1444 A.H., corresponding to 5/6/2023 A.D. (June 5, 2023), between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Saudi Fund for Development for an amount of Saudi Riyals 375,000,000 (US\$100,000,000), to assist in financing the Infrastructural Development Works for the Housing Sector Project.

(Circulated)

- (xii) Loan Agreement No. 2/797 signed on 16/11/1444 A.H., corresponding to 5/6/2023 A.D. (June 5, 2023), between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Saudi Fund for Development for an amount of Saudi Riyals 187,500,000 (US\$50,000,000), to assist in financing the Construction of Wismar Bridge Project.

(Circulated)

- (xiii) The External Loans (Increasing the Limit) Order 2023 – No. 48 of 2023.

(Circulated)

- (xiv) The Public Loan (Increasing of Limit) Order 2023 – No. 49 of 2023.

(Circulated)

- (xv) The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance **did not proceed with the presentation of** Financial Paper No. 3/2023 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$33,203,625,745 for the period ending 2023-12-31.

4. By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

- (i) The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Regulations 2023 – No. 9 of 2023.

(Circulated)

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13.

- (ii) The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism
(Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 – No. 10 of 2023.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

- (1) By the Minister of Health (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Radiation Safety and Security Bill 2022 – Bill No. 8 of 2022):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Radiation Safety and Security Bill 2022 – No. 8 of 2022.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Housing and Water (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – Bill No. 26 of 2022):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – Bill No. 26 of 2022.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received an oral question from Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P., and that it did not qualify under Standing Order 18(b). He therefore disallowed the question.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

In accordance with Standing Order No. 19(4), the following question was converted to a question for written response:

14.

1. 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?
- (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)

ANSWERS

Please see **Appendix** (1).

2. Names of Subjects done in the Secondary Schools in Region No. 8

Member Asking: Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister state the name of each subject done by each grade in the Secondary Schools in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 264 (Q194 Opp.194) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (2).

15.

3. Names of Textbooks for each Subject in the Secondary Schools in Region No. 8

Member Asking: Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister state the names of the textbooks recommended by the Ministry for each of the subjects offered in Secondary Schools in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 265 (Q195 Opp.195) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (3).

4. Number of hard copies of Textbooks in the Secondary Schools in Region No. 8

Member Asking: Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister state the number of hard copies of the recommended textbooks that are in the possession of the Secondary Schools as of March 27, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 266 (Q196 Opp.196) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (4).

5. Teaching Vacancies in the Secondary Schools in Region No. 8

Member Asking: Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister provide a list of all the teaching vacancies in each of the Secondary Schools as of March 27, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 267 (Q197 Opp.197) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (5).

16.

6. Names of Subjects done in the Primary Schools in Region No. 8

Member Asking: **Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

Can the Hon. Minister state the name of each subject done by each grade in the Primary Schools in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 268 (Q198 Opp.198) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

“At present, the subjects done in Grades One through Six in the Primary Schools in Region No.8 are as follows: -

- Literacy Hour
- Accelerated Literacy Instruction
- Numeracy
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Composition
- Comprehension
- Handwriting
- HFLE (Health and Family Life Education)
- Social Studies
- Science
- Art
- Physical Education”

7. Amount of Monies Spent on Legal Fees and Other Direct Costs to debunk the claim by Venezuela to Guyana's Territory

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Could the Hon. Minister state how much money has been spent between 2015 and March 2023, to debunk the claim by Venezuela to Guyana's Territory, including payments to lawyers and related personnel; research and documentation; travel and subsistence; and other related expenses?

(Notice Paper No. 274 (Q204 Opp.204) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (6).

8. Value-Added Products now available to the Guyanese Consumers

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Minister, you have outlined several initiatives since taking office in 2020 to reduce the 41% dependency on imported food and further commented that the government has created a priority list of foods to be produced at home.

Could the Hon. Minister state what value-added products are now available to the Guyanese consumers as a result of our manufacturers shifting from primary producers of agriculture under your plan to reduce the 41% Dependency on imports?

(Notice Paper No. 275 (Q205 Opp.205) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

“The Government of Guyana has actively supported the business sector through financial and technical support to farmers and Agro-Processors and infrastructural investment, leading to increased production of fresh and processed commodities.

18.

From 2020 to 2023, over 300 local value-added products were introduced in the Guyana Shop inclusive of fruit-flavoured dips, fruit wines, paneer, chocolate, burger patties, coconut chips, coconut flour, coconut milk, desiccated coconut, smoked ham, dehydrated fruits, and flavoured cassava bread, among others.

Added to this, the Government has embarked on the development of the Agro-Processing industry to enhance exports and reduce the country's import dependence by creating an enabling environment for an efficient and competitive local manufacturing sector, establishing 13 processing facilities across Guyana, benefiting approximately 2,500 farmers”.

9. Existing Barriers to Trade within CARICOM

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Minister, our manufacturers and farmers have been confronted with several existing barriers to trade within CARICOM, can you provide information on the progress made to remove any of these existing barriers?

(Notice Paper No. 276 (Q206 Opp.206) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix (7)**.

10. REMOVAL OF 200 TAXES and FEES IMPOSED BY THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, REPORTED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

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

Official Report (*Hansard dated 17th September, 2020, 24th February, 2021, and 25th February, 2021*) of the Parliament stated that some Members of the Government quoted, “Coalition Government imposed more than 200 taxes and fees on Guyanese...”

Can the Hon. Senior Minister provide a detailed list of the 200 taxes and fees on items, as claimed to have been imposed by the Coalition Government, during the period May 2015 to August 2020?

(Notice Paper No. 277 (Q207 Opp.207) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

“The list of taxes and fees imposed by the APNU/AFC Government during the period May 2015 to August 2020 has been extensively reported on and ventilated in the public domain”.

For Oral Replies

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

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following question:

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

20.

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)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

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

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following question:

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

21.

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)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

13. *REMUNERATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following question:

According to the Official Gazette of Guyana dated 30th 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.

22.

*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)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

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

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following questions:

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?

23.

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)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

15. *COMPLETION OF THE UPGRADE WORKS ON CEMETERY ROAD

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works the following questions:

In a report carried in the Guyana Chronicle, dated March 17, 2022, re: “Cemetery Road expansion progressing smoothly. The project is expected to be completed by July 19, 2023.”

- a. * Can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether the project will be completed by July 19, 2023, if no, what caused the delay?
- b. *What is the new completion date for the project?

(Notice Paper No. 278 (Q208 Opp.208) published on 2023-06-09)

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works a supplementary question.

24.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

Hon. Aubrey Norton, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, asked the Minister of Public Works a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

16. *MONIES SPENT FOR THE UPGRADE OF CEMETERY ROAD

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works the following questions:

In a report carried in the Guyana Chronicle, dated March 17, 2022, re: “Cemetery Road expansion progressing smoothly.” The project is expected to be completed by July 19, 2023.”

- a. *Can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the amount of monies spent as of May 25, 2023, from the total project cost of \$475M?
- b. *Can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether there is a ‘cost overrun’ of the project? If yes, what is the new cost?

(Notice Paper No. 279 (Q209 Opp.209) published on 2023-06-09)

25.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Works replied.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 13 (Order of Business)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – Bill No. 26 of 2022 was referred to a Special Select Committee on 24th April, 2023;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee has completed its work and the motion and Bill are on the Order Paper for consideration and third reading at the next Sitting;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of the Government to have the motion adopted and the Bill be read a third time in order to allow the National Assembly to approve same and for the President to assent for implementation of the legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 13 (Order of Business) be suspended to allow the Assembly to consider the Committees Business after consideration of Government's Business at its Sitting on 20th July, 2023.

(Notice Paper No. 294 (M 70 Govt 34) published on 2023-07-13)

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSACTIONS BILL 2023 – Bill No. 9/2023 published on 2023-05-17

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the facilitation and regulation of secure electronic communications, transactions and receipt, payment and transfer of money and for their legal recognition, to promote the development of the legal and business infrastructure necessary to implement secure electronic commerce and to enhance efficient delivery of governance by public authorities by means of reliable electronic records and electronic filing of documents and for related matters.

2. REAL ESTATE AGENTS AND BROKERS BILL 2023 – Bill No. 11/2023

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration and regulation of Real Estate Agents and Brokers in Guyana; to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in the Real Estate profession; to protect and assist persons engaged in transactions with Real Estate Agents and to assist in the detection and prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, and to provide for other related matters.

3. GUYANA COMPLIANCE COMMISSION BILL 2023 – Bill No. 12/2023

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

27.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide adequate supervision to reporting entities (Designated Non-Financial Business or Professions and Non-Bank Financial Institutions) for compliance with obligations under the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act; to enhance the compliance, guidance and training regime on money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing in Guyana; to provide domestic and international cooperation; and to provide for other related matters.

4. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 – Bill No. 13/2023

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

5. DATA PROTECTION BILL 2023 – Bill No. 14/2023

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to regulate the collection, keeping, processing, use and dissemination of personal data; to protect the privacy of individuals in relation to their personal data; and provide for related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTIONS

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

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet moved 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.

(Notice Paper No. 258 (M62 Govt31) published on 2023-04-24)

(Paper presented on 2023-04-24)

16-162 – MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1400100 – Amerindian Development Fund

Assembly resumed.

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

29.

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.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.52 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.21 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

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

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved 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 Govt32) published on 2023-04-24)

(Paper presented on 2023-04-24)

16-162 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

3401000 – Low Carbon Development Programme

Assembly resumed.

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

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

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 3 – SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 1 FOR 2023) BILL 2023 –
Bill No. 8/2023 published on 2023-04-24

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2023) Bill No.8/2023 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2023, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.10 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

BILLS – Second Reading

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

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale Forde, S.C., M.P.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 5 were passed as printed.

Clause 6

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs made reference to an Erratum published on 2nd May 2023, which stated that Clause 6(3)(b) was inadvertently omitted from the published Bill in the Official Gazette (Extra Ordinary Issue) of 17th April, 2023. Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved that the following subclause be inserted in the Bill:

“Clause 6(3)(b):

except in cases mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c), if the bringing of the proceedings in the original court was contrary to an agreement under which the dispute in question was to be settled otherwise than proceedings in that court; or”

Clause 6 was then passed as corrected.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Foreign Judgements (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill 2023 was read a third time and **passed** as **corrected**.

MOTION

ITEM 5 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT OF FIRST SCHEDULE) (NO. 2) ORDER 2023 – NO. 44 OF 2023

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirms the Customs (Amendment of First Schedule) (No. 2) Order 2023 (No. 44 of 2023) which was made on the 12th day of June, 2023, under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 and published in an Extra Ordinary copy of the Official Gazette dated 12th June, 2023.

(Notice Paper No. 292 (M68 Govt33) published on 2023-06-30)

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

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 6 - THE RADIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY BILL 2022 – Bill No. No. 8/2022 published on 2022-04-13

The Minister of Health moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of ionizing radiation, protect persons and the environment against the harmful effects of radioactive waste, establish the Radiation Safety and Security Board and for connected matters.

(Read a first time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2022-04-13)

Presiding by Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 9.02 a.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

The Minister of Health continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P.

Hon. Beverley Alert, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 9.46 p.m., while Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security was speaking to the motion, the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

34.

Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security continued and concluded her speech.

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

A motion by the Minister of Health, for the adoption of the Report of the Special Select Committee with all amendments to the Radiation Safety and Security Bill 2022 was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Health, the Radiation Safety and Security Bill 2022 was read a third time and passed as amended.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 7 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM BILL NO. 26 OF 2022

The Minister of Housing and Water (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – No. 26 of 2022) moved the following motion:

34.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – Bill No. 26 of 2022, be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 293 (M69 Committees 20) published on 2023-07-13)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Housing and Water replied.

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

BILLS – Third Reading

ITEM 8 - PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM BILL – Bill No. 26 of 2022 published on 2022-12-05

The Minister of Housing and Water (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Planning and Development Single Window System Bill 2022 – Bill No. 26 of 2022) moved the third reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Planning and Development Single Window System; to provide for the management and implementation of the Planning and Development Single Window System; to provide for the establishment of the Planning Oversight Committee; to define the functions of the Planning Oversight Committee; to centralize functions pertaining to land use planning and development and for matters connected thereto.

35.

(Read a first time on 2022-12-05)

(Read a second time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2023-04-24)

Thereafter, the Planning and Single Window System Bill 2022 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.52 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 3rd August, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Manzoor Nadir", is displayed on a light-colored rectangular background.

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

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

20th, July 2023.