

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 66th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON THURSDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 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**

2.

Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health (Virtual-Participation)

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. 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

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. (Virtual Participation)

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.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

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 (Virtual Participation)
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. (Virtual Participation)
Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Hon. Jermaine A. Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)
Hon. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.
Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprakash, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Hon. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Beverley Alert, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Richard E. Sinclair, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)
Hon. Devin L. Sears, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper-Demerara/Upper-Berbice)

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

Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, 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 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

**(1) APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS THE
REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION**

The Speaker informed Members that a delegation from the Parliament of Guyana participated in the 45th Annual Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. During the conference the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region Annual General Meeting was held and the Regional Secretariat for the grouping moved to Guyana, making Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly for the next three years, the Regional Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

6.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the fiscal year ended 2020.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:

Financial Paper No. 3/2023 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$61,013,184,705 for the period ending 2023-12-31.

(Circulated)

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, named Wednesday, 9th August, 2023, for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **Names of Textbooks for each Subject 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 names of the textbooks recommended by the Ministry for each of the subjects offered in Primary Schools in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 269 (Q199 Opp.199) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (1).

7.

2. Number of hard copies of Textbooks 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 number of hard copies of the recommended textbooks that are in the possession of the Primary Schools as of March 27, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 270 (Q200 Opp.200) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (2).

3. Teaching Vacancies 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 provide a list of all the teaching vacancies in each of the Primary Schools as of March 27, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 271 (Q201 Opp.201) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (3).

4. Cost of Delivery of Primary Education in Region No. 8

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister state what it costs the Ministry of Education per day to deliver primary education to one student in each Primary School as of March, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 272 (Q202 Opp.202) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (4).

8.

5. Cost of Delivery of Secondary Education in Region No. 8

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister state what it costs the Ministry of Education per day to deliver secondary education to one student in each Secondary School as of March, 2023, in Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No. 273 (Q203 Opp.203) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

“The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development expends money for Education Delivery in Region No.8.

The Ministry of Communities in 2019 spent \$1350 per day to educate a student. We are advised by the Budget appropriation that the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is expending a total of \$2500 per day in 2023, an increase of \$1150 per student”.

6. PERCENTAGE OF THE SCOPE OF WORK DONE ON CEMETERY ROAD

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

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.”

Can the Hon. Minister advise the National Assembly on the following total percentage of work completed as per the scope of work and provide a disaggregation in percentage and costs for each scope of work?

(Notice Paper No. 280 (Q210 Opp.210) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix (5)**.

STANDING ORDER 22(9)

In accordance with Standing Order **22(9)**, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip asked that questions 7, 8 and 9 be **deferred**:

7. OVERSEAS VISITS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Can the Hon. Gail Teixeira, MP, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, inform the National Assembly of the countries visited by His Excellency, the President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali from August 2, 2020 to May 17, 2023, and the costs associated with each visit?

(Notice Paper No. 281 (Q211 Opp.211) published on 2023-06-09)

8. OVERSEAS VISITS BY VICE-PRESIDENT, HON. BHARRAT JAGDEO, M.P.

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Can the Hon. Gail Teixeira, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, inform the National Assembly of the countries visited by Vice-President, Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P. from August 2, 2020 to May 17, 2023, and the costs associated with each visit?

(Notice Paper No. 282 (Q212 Opp.212) published on 2023-06-09)

9. BENEFITS DERIVED FROM OVERSEAS VISITS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI AND VICE-PRESIDENT, HON. BHARRAT JAGDEO, M.P.

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Can the Hon. Gail Teixeira, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, inform the National Assembly how Guyana and Guyanese benefitted from these overseas visits by His Excellency the President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Vice-President, Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, MP?

(Notice Paper No. 283 (Q213 Opp.213) published on 2023-06-09)

10. RETRENCHED GUYSUCO SUGAR WORKERS

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Hon. Minister provide to the National Assembly a list disaggregating the number of Sugar Workers severed from the following Sugar Estates/Factories: Wales, Skeldon, Albion and Uitvlugt, during the period May, 2015 to August 2, 2020?

(Notice Paper No. 284 (Q214 Opp.214) published on 2023-06-09)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix** (6).

11. 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.”

11.

- (a) Could the Hon. Minister kindly provide the House with the data for 2021 and 2022 showing our achievements in the production of any five (5) foods on your priority list that are presently being produced?
- (b) Could the Hon. Minister state what percentage of the local market it will impact?

(Notice Paper No. 291 (Q221 Opp.221) published on 2023-06-26)

ANSWER

Please see **Appendix (7)**.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

1. **DIGITAL IDENTITY CARD BILL 2023 – Bill No. 15/2023**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of a Registry for the collection of identity data of citizens fourteen years and over and non-citizens, including, skilled nationals of a Caribbean Community State and for the issuance of Digital Identity Cards containing digital identity data that were collected to facilitate electronic governance and to enhance government and other services and for related matters.

(Circulated)

2. **PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES BILL 2023 – Bill No. 16/2023**

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

12.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and replace the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act Cap. 65:04 and the Petroleum (Production) Act Cap 65:05; to provide for the exploration, production, storage, and transportation of petroleum in Guyana; and for related matters.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTERNAL LOANS (INCREASING OF LIMIT) ORDER 2023 – NO. 48 OF 2023 AND THE PUBLIC LOAN (INCREASING OF LIMIT) ORDER 2023 – NO. 49 OF 2023

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

WHEREAS the Government has outlined an ambitious programme of development aimed at transforming Guyana and delivering improved quality of life to all Guyanese, which will require new financing including through additional external and domestic debt;

AND WHEREAS the Government is committed to maintaining its sterling track record of transparent and prudent debt management, to safeguard Guyana's long-term fiscal and debt sustainability;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 3(7) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08, confirms the External Loans (Increase of Limit) Order 2023 (No. 48 of 2023) which was made on 20th July, 2023, under Section 3(1) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08 and published in the Official Gazette dated 20th July, 2023.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Public Loan Act, Chapter 74:13, confirms the Public Loan (Increasing of Limit) Order 2023 (No. 49 of 2023) which was made on 20th July, 2023, under Section 2(1) of the Public Loan Act, Chapter 74:13 and published in the Official Gazette dated 20th July, 2023.

(Notice Paper No. 295 (M 71 Govt 35) published on 2023-07-21)

Hon. Colin Croal, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water, spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 11.49 a.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.24 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Juretha Fernandes, M.P.

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

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P.

Hon. Amanza Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

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

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark A. Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.47 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.34 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 2 - ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSACTIONS BILL 2023 **– Bill No. 9/2023 published on 2023-05-17**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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.

(Read a first time on 2023-07-20)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Hon. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark A. Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. O 10(1)

At 7.51 p.m., the Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No.10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue beyond 8.00 p.m., to conclude the business of the day.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Devin Sears, M.P.

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

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

At 8.12 p.m., while the Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 8.19 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce 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 84 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce the Electronic Communications and Transactions Bill 2023 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - REAL ESTATE AGENTS AND BROKERS BILL 2023 – Bill No. 11/2023
published on 2023-07-19

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

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.

(Read a first time on 2023-07-20)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Alister Charlie, M.P.

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

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

At 10.13 p.m., while Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dr. Asha Kisoorn, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 10.25 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Collin Croal, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, 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 77 were passed as printed.

Schedules were passed as printed.

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 printed.

ITEM 4 - GUYANA COMPLIANCE COMMISSION BILL 2023 – Bill No. 12/2023
published on 2023-07-20

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

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.

(Read a first time on 2023-07-20)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Amanza Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Hugh H. Todd, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, 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 74 were passed as printed.

Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Guyana Compliance Commission Bill 2023 was read a third time and **passed** as **printed**.

ITEM 5 - ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 – Bill No. 13/2023 published on 2023-07-20

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

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

(Read a first time on 2023-07-20)

Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

At 2.15 p.m., while the Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 2.30 a.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

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 16 were passed as printed.

Clause 17

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

“Delete Clause 17 which seeks to amend Section 37A of the Principal Act”.

Clause 17 was then deleted.

Clauses 18 to 49 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2023 was read a third time and **passed** as **amended**.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.20 a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 9th August, 2023.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

3rd August, 2023.