

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 67th 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, 9TH 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 (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

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

/...3

***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)

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.

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip (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

Ms. Deslyn West, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 10.32 a.m.

PRA YERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

On behalf of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended greetings to Indigenous People Worldwide as August 9 is observed to be International Day of Indigenous People.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

Annual Reports of the Police Complaints Authority for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2023 – No.12 of 2023.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

For Oral Replies

1. *PRICES FOR REPOSSESSED LANDS SOLD AT PETER'S Hall, EAST BANK
DEMERARA

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance the following question: /...6

6.

An article carried via Stabroek News, dated May 21, 2023, reported, “Land repossessed by Government at Peters’ Hall resold at market prices – Attorney General”

*Can the Hon. Senior Minister inform the National Assembly at what prices the repossessed lands at Peter’s Hall on the East Bank of Demerara were sold and to whom?

(Notice Paper No. 285 (Q215 Opp.215) published on 2023-06-09)

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

2. ***PROCEDURE USED BY NICIL FOR SALE OF REPOSSESSED LANDS AT PETER’S Hall, EAST BANK DEMERARA**

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

An article carried via Stabroek News, dated May 21, 2023, reported, “Land repossessed by Government at Peters’ Hall resold at market prices – Attorney General”

*Could the Hon. Senior Minister inform the National Assembly after the lands were repossessed, what procedure did NICIL use to select buyers for these lands?

(Notice Paper No. 286 (Q216 Opp.216) published on 2023-06-09)

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

7.

3. ***PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION ENUMERATED**

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

Guyana National Population and Housing Census 2022 was launched on August 22, 2022, and the National Assembly approved the sum of \$2B via Supplementary Paper on August 8, 2022.

*Can the Hon. Senior Minister inform the National Assembly what percentage of the total population has been enumerated as of April 30, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 287 (Q217 Opp.217) published on 2023-06-09)

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

Hon. Volda Lawrence, 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.

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

Terms of Reference for the Commission of Inquiry into the Madhia Dormitory Fire

The Hon. Speaker informed Members that a request for leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly on Definite Matters of Urgent Importance was received from Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., re. the Terms of Reference for the Commission of Inquiry into the Madhia Dormitory Fire. His Honour indicated that the matter was important but not urgent and therefore disallowed the request.

8.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2023 – CURRENT
AND 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. 3/2023 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital)
totalling \$61,013,184,705 for the period ending 2023-12-31

(Notice Paper No. 296 (M 72 Govt 36) published on 2023-08-03)

(Paper presented on 2023-08-03)

**1. 02-023 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER – POWER GENERATION
CURRENT ESTIMATES**

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organizations

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2609500 – Renewable Energy Improvement – Power System Project

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2610600 – Gas to Power Project

**02-023 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER – TELECOMMUNICATIONS &
INNOVATIONS**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organizations

9.

2. **03-032 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
POLICIES AND SERVICES
CURRENT ESTIMATES**

6294 – Other

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.29 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.02 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to continue consideration of Financial Paper No. 3/2023.

3. **13-134 – MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNEMENT AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT
CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

1902900 – Project Development and Assistance

1904300 – Regional Economic Transformation

4. **16-161 – MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS – POLICY DEVELOPMENT
AND ADMINISTRATION
CURRENT ESTIMATES**

6281 – Security Services

5. **21-212 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

10.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organizations

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1301600 – National Drainage and Irrigation Authority

1701500 – Guyana Livestock Development Authority

4503200 – Contribution to Local Corporation – GUYSUCO

6. 31-311 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organizations

31-312 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS – PUBLIC WORKS

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

6251 – Maintenance of Roads

1101100 – Demerara Harbour Bridge

1404100 – Miscellaneous Roads/Drainage

1404200 – Urban Roads/Drainage

1404000 – Bridges

1405200 – Hinterland Roads

1501400 – Sea and River Defence Works

1601000 – Stellings

31-313 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS – TRANSPORT

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2700700 – Ferry Vessels and Stellings

7. 40-403 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – NURSERY EDUCATION

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6222 – Field Materials and Supplies

6223 – Office Materials and Supplies

6243 – Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1215300 – Nursey Schools

40-404 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – PRIMARY EDUCATION

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6222 – Field Materials and Supplies

6223 – Office Materials and Supplies

6243 – Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies

6292 – Dietary

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1215400 – Primary Schools

40-405 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – SECONDARY EDUCATION

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6222 – Field Materials and Supplies

6223 – Office Materials and Supplies

6243 – Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1215500 – Secondary Schools

2607500 – Secondary Education – Improvement Project

8. 44-444 – MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORTS – SPORTS
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

4506400 – Ground Enhancement Programme

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 7.52 p.m., the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved that Standing Order No.10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit beyond 8.00 p.m., to continue and conclude the business of the day.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9

At 7.54 p.m., the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved that Standing Order No. 9 be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude the business of the 67th Sitting.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to continue consideration of Financial Paper No. 3/2023.

9. 45-452 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1903100 – Infrastructural Development and Buildings

10. 47-474 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH – REGIONAL AND CLINICAL SERVICES
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1216200 – Ministry of Health – Buildings

11. 51-512 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS – GUYANA POLICE FORCE
CURRENT ESTIMATES

6222 – Field Materials and Supplies

13.

- 6223 – Office Materials and Supplies
- 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings
- 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure
- 6261 – Local Travel and Subsistence
- 6282 – Equipment Maintenance
- 6284 – Other
- 6292 – Dietary

Presiding by Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj, M.P.

At 8.44 p.m., while the Assembly was considering the Current Estimates of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. Dhankumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

11. 51-512–MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS – GUYANA POLICE FORCE
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1216800 – Police Stations and Buildings

Return of the Speaker

At 8.51 p.m., while the Assembly was considering the Capital Estimates of the Ministry of Home Affairs – Line Item 1216800 – Police Stations and Buildings, the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

11. 51-512–MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS – GUYANA POLICE FORCE
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

- 2405900 – Land and Water Transport – Police
- 2509500 – Equipment and Furniture – Police
- 2608300 – Equipment – Police

12. 53-531 – GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE – DEFENCE AND SECURITY SUPPORT

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6221 – Drugs and Medical Supplies
6224 – Print and Non-Print Materials
6231 – Fuel and Lubricant
6261 – Local Travel and Subsistence
6265 – Other Transport, Travel and Postage
6284 – Other
6292 – Dietary
6294 – Other

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1200100 – Buildings
2512600 – Furniture and Equipment

13. 72-721–REGION #2 – POMEROON/SUPENAAM – REGIONAL

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

72-722–REGION #2 – POMEROON/SUPENAAM – AGRICULTURE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

72-723–REGION #2 – POMEROON/SUPENAAM – PUBLIC WORKS

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

15.

72-724-REGION #2 – POMEROON/SUPENAAM – EDUCATION DELIVERY

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6231 – Fuel and Lubricants

6281 – Security Services

72-725-REGION #2 – POMEROON/SUPENAAM – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

14. **73-731-REGION #3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA –**

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**73-732-REGION #3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA –
AGRICULTURE**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**73-733-REGION #3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA – PUBLIC
WORKS**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**73-734-REGION #3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA –
EDUCATION DELIVERY**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

73-735-REGION #3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

15. 74-741-REGION #4 – DEMERARA/MAHAICA – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

74-742-REGION #4 – DEMERARA/MAHAICA – AGRICULTURE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

74-744-REGION #4 – DEMERARA/MAHAICA – EDUCATION DELIVERY

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

74-745-REGION #4 – DEMERARA/MAHAICA – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

16. 75-751-REGION #5 – MAHAICA/BERBICE – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

17.

75-754-REGION #5 – MAHAICA/BERBICE – EDUCATION DELIVERY

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

75-755-REGION #5 – MAHAICA/BERBICE – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**17. 77-751-REGION #7 – CUYUNI/MAZARUNI – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

77-773-REGION #7 – CUYUNI/MAZARUNI – EDUCATION DELIVERY

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

77-774-REGION #7 – CUYUNI/MAZARUNI – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**18. 78-781-REGION #8 – POTARO/SIPARUNI – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

78-783-REGION #8 – POTARO/SIPARUNI – EDUCATION DELIVERY

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

78-784-REGION #8 – POTARO/SIPARUNI – HEALTH SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**19. 80-801-REGION #10 – UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE – REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**80-802-REGION #10 – UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE – PUBLIC
WORKS**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**80-803-REGION #10 – UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE – EDUCATION
DELIVERY**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

**80-804-REGION #10 – UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE – HEALTH
SERVICES**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6281 – Security Services

Assembly resumed.

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

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 3/2023 - Supplementary Estimates Current and Capital totalling \$61,013,185,983 for the period ending 2023-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 FOR 2023) BILL 2023 –
Bill No. 17/2023 published on 2023-08-03

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2023) Bill No.17/2023 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 10.41 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 11.35 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 3 – PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES BILL 2023 – Bill No. 16/2023 published on 2023-08-02

The Minister of Natural Resources moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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.

(Read a first time on 2023-08-03)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P.

Hon. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Vincent Henry, M.P.

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

Hon. Shurwayne Holder, M.P.

Hon. Charles Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth & Sport

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Hon. Aubrey Norton, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Thereafter, the Minister of Natural Resources replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Education moved a motion for all the amendments proposed by Hon. David Patterson, M.P., and seconded by Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P., be put together:

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

AGAINST

Mr. Sears

Mr. Sinclair

Ms. Alert

Ms. Philadelphia

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Figueira

FOR

Dr. Kissoon

Ms. Coonjah

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks

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. Jordan
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mr. Duncan
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Holder
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Norton

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. Jadgeo
 Mr. Phillips

In Committee

Hon. David Patterson, M.P., seconded by Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P., moved the following amendments which were put and negatived on the following division:

Part I; Preliminary; Interpretation

Insert “National Petroleum Commission” means the National Petroleum Commission to be established under the Petroleum Commission Act.

Clause 6 (5) – “Upon the constitution of the National Petroleum Commission, all applications shall be submitted to the Commission, the Commission have shall forward recommendations to the Minister, for further action”.

Clause 7 (1) (c) – “The Minister shall bring to the National Assembly, for approval, a report on the conditions and terms of license which is proposed to be granted pursuant to subsection (1) (b)”.

Clause 12 – “Insert after “an agreement”– after receiving recommendations from the National Petroleum Commission.”

Clause 19 (5) - “Upon the constitution of the National Petroleum Commission, all petroleum exploration license applications shall be submitted to the National Petroleum commission, The Commission’s recommendations shall be forward to the Minister, for further action”.

Clause 27 (4) – insert after “within a period specified in the notice, “but not exceeding two years from the date of discovery”.

Clause 29 (2) – delete the word “sole”, insert after Minister “acting on the technical advice of the National Petroleum”.

Clause 29 (4) – “authorization granted under subsection (2) shall not exceed seven years after the notice of discovery”.

Delete Clause 32 (3) (b)

Clause 33 – “Insert after Minister, after receiving technical recommendations from the National Petroleum Commission”.

Clause 37 (2) (a) – “Insert after the Minister, after receiving technical recommendations from the National Petroleum Commission.”

Clause 39 (1) – delete the words “as he deems fit” and insert as recommended by the National Petroleum Commission.”

Clause 47 (5) – “Any signature bonus paid by the licensee shall be deposited in full into the consolidated fund in no less than 90 days after receipt”.

Clause 47 (6) – “Any signature bonus paid by the licensee shall be reported to the National Assembly at the end of the quarter that it is received”.

Clause 49 (1) – insert after “production area”. “Royalty payable to the State by the holder of a petroleum production license shall not be less than ten percent and not more than fifteen percent”.

Clause 49 (1) (6) – “All audits for money deemed cost recoverable under any production license shall be completed within nine months of the end of each fiscal year. The Minister shall submit all audit reports to the National Assembly at the earliest possible time thereafter”.

Clause 52 (3) – “The annual training fee shall not be less than One million, Five Hundred Thousand Unities States dollars”.

Clause 53 (1) – delete the word “may” insert “shall”

Clause 53 (2) – “The National Petroleum Commission shall, after consultation with relevant social protection, relief, environmental protection, conservation, and development organizations in civil society develop a competitive financial grant system. The National Petroleum Commission shall be responsible for the operation of this grant scheme but may delegate its responsibilities with Ministerial approval.

The National Petroleum Commission shall report annually to the Public Accounts Committee”.

Clause 61 (3) – insert after “fund”, “commencing no later than one year after the commencement of production”.

Clause 61 (3) – “The decommissioning fund shall be held in escrow at an approved financial institution”.

Clause 78 (1) (c) – delete “two hundred metres”, insert “five kilometers.”

Clause 78 (1) (d) – delete “two hundred metres” insert “five kilometers.”

Clause 78 (4) – “except with the consent as prescribed to titled lands under the Amerindian Act”.

Clause 79 – delete “two hundred metres” insert “one kilometer”.

26.

Clause 81 (4) – “In the event that these clauses (1), (2) and (3) come into conflict with the Amerindian Act, the latter shall take precedence”.

Clause 82 (b) – “Prior to commencement of petroleum operations, the licensee shall conduct, at their own expense, a comprehensive baseline study on the fishing stock within the proposed area”.

Clause 82 (c) – “the licensee shall conduct continuous monitoring during the lifetime of a license, the results of such monitoring exercise shall be submitted to the Guyana Fisheries Department and the National Petroleum Commission. The approved reports shall be placed in the public domain by the Guyana Fisheries Department”.

Clause 93 (3) – “the licensee shall undertake to provide full liability coverage, inclusive of appropriate insurance and a parent company guarantee which shall be in force for each oil field development. Certificates of insurance and this parent company guarantee should be lodged on an annual basis with the Environmental Protection Agency”.

Clause 99 – “Notwithstanding the conditions in Clause 98, seven years after the commencement of this Act, all permits and production licenses (applied for after the seventh year) shall be subjected to the conditions of this Act”.

FOR

Mr. Sears
Mr. Sinclair
Ms. Alert
Ms. Philadelphia
Mr. Jaiprashad
Mrs. Flue-Bess
Mr. Rajkumar

AGAINST

Ms. Coonjah
Ms. Veerasammy
Mr. Williams
Dr. Smith
Mr. Jaffarally
Dr. Westford
Dr. Ramsaran

DECLINED TO VOTE

Dr. Kissoon

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. Jordan
 Mr. Jones
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mr. Duncan
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Holder
 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. Jadgeo
 Mr. Phillips

Clauses 1 to 98 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Petroleum Activities Bill 2023 was read a third time and **passed** as **printed**.

At 6.51 a.m. some Members of the A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change withdrew from the Chamber.

ITEM 4 – DATA PROTECTION BILL 2023 – Bill No. 14/2023 published on 2023-07-20

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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.

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

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., spoke to the motion.

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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

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

“Clause 2 - Amend the definition of “sensitive personal data” as follows –

- (a) By inserting after paragraph (j) the following paragraph – “(k) health record;”;
- and
- (b) By renumbering the current paragraph (k) as paragraph (l);”.

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 106 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Data Protection Bill 2023 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 – DIGITAL IDENTITY CARD BILL 2023 – Bill No. 15/2023 published on 2023-08-02

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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.

(Read a first time on 2023-08-03)

Hon. David Patterson, M.P., spoke to the motion.

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 19 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

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

RECESS GREETINGS

The Speaker of the National Assembly wished Members and staff an enjoyable recess. The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly joined the Speaker in wishing everyone an enjoyable recess.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.52 a.m., on a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manzoor Nadi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

9th August 2023.