

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 75th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2024) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 10.00 A.M.

ON THURSDAY, 25th JANUARY, 2024,

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 (Absent – on leave)

*Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

2.

Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara),
Minister of Education

*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 Local Government and Regional Development

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)(Virtual-Participation)

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.

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

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

Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.
Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
Hon. Vinceroy H. Jordan, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.
Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P.
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. (Absent)
Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Hon. Jermaine A. Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)
Hon. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.
Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprashad, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Hon. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Beverley Alert, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Hon. Richard E. Sinclair, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)
Hon. Devin L. Sears, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper-Demerara/Upper-Berbice)

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

Hon. Dr. Asha Kisooson, 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 10.11 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcement:

Welcome

The Speaker welcomed students and teachers from the Tutorial High School to the Sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2024 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2024

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2024.

(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance on 2024-01-15)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

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

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

6.

Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

Presiding by Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P.

At 11.45 a.m., while the Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., took the Chair.

Return of the Speaker

At 12.12 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health, continued and concluded his speech.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.42 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.19 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Susan Rodrigues, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Housing & Water

Hon. Annette Ferguson M.P.

Presiding by Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P.

At 4.04 p.m., while the Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., took the Chair.

7.

Return of the Speaker

At 4.16 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

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

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

Presiding by Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P.

At 5.11 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P., took the Chair.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dineshwar Jaiprakash, M.P.

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

Return of the Speaker

At 5.50 p.m., while the Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce was speaking to the motion, the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, continued and concluded her speech.

Hon. Richard Sinclair, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

8.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.38 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Friday, 26th January, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manzoor Nadir". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

25th January, 2024.