

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 76th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2024) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON FRIDAY, 26th 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

/...2

***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

/...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.

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.

/...4

***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. (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. 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

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 10.19 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 Dolphin Secondary School to the Sitting and gave a brief history of the school.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

Annual Reports of the Law Reform Commission for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 2/2024

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act, the Value-Added Tax Act, the Customs Act, the Natural Resource Fund Act, the External Loans Act and the Public Loan Act.

/...6

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

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.48 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.,

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

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

7.

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

At 4.40 p.m., some Members of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change withdrew from the Chamber.

Welcome

The Speaker welcomed Mr. Alfred Mentore, Mayor of the City of Georgetown, and Mr. Manvir Sharma to the Sitting.

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

Presiding by Dr. Asha Kisooson, M.P.

At 5.39 p.m., while the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Asha Kisooson, M.P., took the Chair.

Return of the Speaker

At 6.02 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, continued and concluded his speech.

CONCLUSION OF BUDGET DEBATE

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2024, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and approve of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

8.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on Wednesday, 24th January, 2024, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2024 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, and passed a Resolution on the matter.

Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Timetable were circulated to Members at that day's Sitting.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in its Resolution.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Supply would commence consideration of the 2024 Estimates of Expenditure at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th January, 2024.

Assembly resumed.

9.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.34 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Tuesday, 30th 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.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

25th January, 2024.