

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 77<sup>th</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2020-2024) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**ON TUESDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> 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

\*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)

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. (Virtual Participation)

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. 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 10.09 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 Queens College to the Sitting and informed them that they will be witnessing the consideration of the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**For Written Replies**

**Deferral of Questions**

The Speaker deferred the answers to the following questions until the conclusion of the consideration of the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure:

**1. NAMES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE SUBVENTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

6.

Can the Hon. Minister inform this House of the names of Neighbourhood Democratic Councils that were not given a subvention (in the form of cash transfer) from the Ministry of Local Government, for the years 2020, 2021 , 2022, and up to June 2023?

**(Notice Paper No. 315 (Q240 Opp.240) published on 2023-10-30)**

**2. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THAT ACCOMPANIED HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI ON OVERSEAS TRIPS**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip

Can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed list to the National Assembly, of the persons who accompanied the President on overseas trips, from August 2, 2020 to May 17, 2023?

**(Notice Paper No. 322 (Q247 Opp.247) published on 2023-10-30)**

**3. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED HON. BHARRAT JAGDEO. M.P., VICE-PRESIDENT, ON OVERSEAS TRIPS**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip

Can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed list to the National Assembly, of the persons who accompanied Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President, on overseas trips, from August 2, 2020, to May 17, 2023?

**(Notice Paper No. 323 (Q248 Opp.248) published on 2023-10-30)**

**For Oral Replies**

**4. \*FULL DIMENSION OF THE PLOT OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA FOR THE MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program - "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings a contract for the sum of \$15,874,143,300, was awarded to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

\*Can the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly the full dimension of the plot of land in the Houston area where the complex is to be constructed?

**(Notice Paper No. 298 (Q223 Opp.223) published on 2023-10-30)**

**5. \*PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATED SPENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA, MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program – "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings a contact was awarded the sum of \$15,874,143,300, to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

\*Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly what percentage of the total sum allocated for the construction of the Office Complex has been spent as of June 16, 2023?

8.

(Notice Paper No. 299 (Q224 Opp.224) published on 2023-10-30)

6. **\*PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK COMPLETED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA, MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program – "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings – the sum of a contract for \$15,874,143,300, was awarded to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

\*Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly what percentage of work has been completed as of June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 300 (Q225 Opp.225) published on 2023-10-30)

7. **\*SKILLS AUDIT OF VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Labour

\*Can the Hon. Minister indicate whether the Ministry of Labour has conducted a skills audit of Venezuelan migrants at any time between 2020 and June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 309 (Q234 Opp.234) published on 2023-10-30)

8. **\*CODIFICATION OF THE LABOUR REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Labour

\*Can the Hon. Minister inform the House whether the Ministry of Labour has commenced the codification of the labour regulations and legislation under one code for reference?

(Notice Paper No. 310 (Q235 Opp.235) published on 2023-10-30) /...9



9.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**1. BUDGET SPEECH 2024 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2024**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider 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)**

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**07 – PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

**Current Expenditure**

071 National Assembly

**Capital Expenditure**

071 National Assembly

**08 – AUDIT OFFICE OF GUYANA**

**Current Expenditure**

081 Audit Office

**Capital Expenditure**

081 Audit Office

**09 – PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS**

**Current Expenditure**

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

10.

**Capital Expenditure**

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

**10 – TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

101 Teaching Service Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

101 Teaching Service Commission

**11 – GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

111 Elections Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

111 Elections Commission

**55 – SUPREME COURT**

**Current Expenditure**

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

**Capital Expenditure**

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

**56 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

**Current Expenditure**

561 Public Prosecutions

**Capital Expenditure**

561 Public Prosecutions

**57 – OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

**Current Expenditure**

571 Ombudsman

**58 – PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

**Current Expenditure**

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**Capital Expenditure**

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**59 – ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

591 Ethnic Relations Commission

**Capital Expenditure**

591 Ethnic Relations Commission

**60 – JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

601 Judicial Service Commission

**61 – RIGHTS COMMISSIONS OF GUYANA**

**Current Expenditure**

611 Rights Commissions of Guyana

**Capital Expenditure**

611 Rights Commissions of Guyana

**62 – PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

**Current Expenditure**

621 Public Procurement Commission

12.

**Capital Expenditure**

621 Public Procurement Commission

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 12.01 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 1.12 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**01 – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Current Expenditure**

011 Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

011 Administration

**Current Expenditure**

012 National Policy Development and Presidential Advisory Services

**Capital Expenditure**

012 National Policy Development and Presidential Advisory Services

**Current Expenditure**

013 Defence and National Security

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13.

**Capital Expenditure**

013 Defence and National Security

**Current Expenditure**

014 Public Policy and Planning

**Capital Expenditure**

014 Public Policy and Planning

**Current Expenditure**

015 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Capital Expenditure**

015 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Current Expenditure**

016 Police Complaints Authority

**Capital Expenditure**

016 Police Complaints Authority

**53-Guyana Defence Force**

**Current Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**Capital Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**06 – MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE**

**Current Expenditure**

061 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

061 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

062 Parliamentary Affairs

**Current Expenditure**

063 Governance

**Capital Expenditure**

063 Governance

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.21 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.29 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**02 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**Current Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Capital Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Current Expenditure**

022 Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

15.

**Capital Expenditure**

022 Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

**Current Expenditure**

023 Power Generation

**Capital Expenditure**

023 Power Generation

**Current Expenditure**

024 Telecommunications and Innovation

**Capital Expenditure**

024 Telecommunications and Innovation

**Current Expenditure**

025 Government Information and Communication Services

**Capital Expenditure**

025 Government Information and Communication Services

**52 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

521 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

521 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Capital Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Current Expenditure**

524 State Solicitor

**Capital Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.46 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.25 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

**12 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Current Expenditure**

121 Development of Foreign Policy

**Capital Expenditure**

121 Development of Foreign Policy

**Current Expenditure**

122 Foreign Policy Promotion

**Capital Expenditure**

122 Foreign Policy Promotion



17.

**Current Expenditure**

123 Development of Foreign Trade Policy

**Capital Expenditure**

123 Development of Foreign Trade Policy

**16 – MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

161 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

161 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

162 Community Development and Empowerment

**Capital Expenditure**

162 Community Development and Empowerment

**Assembly resumed.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.58 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.



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

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

**30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**