

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 78TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2024) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST 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.

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 10.23 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. Welcome

The Speaker welcomed students and teachers from the Covent Garden Secondary School the Sitting and informed them that they will be witnessing the consideration of the 2024 of Revenue and Expenditure.

2. Expression of Sympathy

The Speaker joined Hon. Vinceroy Jordan, M.P., and Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, in expressing sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Aaron Leitch, Agricultural Crop Extension Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture.

6.

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:

21 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Current Expenditure

211 Ministry Administration

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

213 Fisheries

214 Hydrometeorological Services

Current Expenditure

211 Ministry Administration

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

213 Fisheries

214 Hydrometeorological Services

Assembly resumed.

7.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.20 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.32 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:

23 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Current Expenditure

- 231 Policy Development and Administration
- 232 Business Development, Support and Promotion
- 233 Consumer Protection
- 234 Tourism Development and Promotion

Capital Expenditure

- 231 Policy Development and Administration
- 232 Business Development, Support and Promotion
- 232 Business Development, Support and Promotion
- 233 Consumer Protection
- 234 Tourism Development and Promotion

26 – MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Current Expenditure

- 261 Policy Development and Administration
- 262 Natural Resource Management
- 264 Petroleum Management

8.

Capital Expenditure

261 Policy Development and Administration

262 Natural Resource Management

264 Petroleum Management

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.18 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.50 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:

31 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Current Expenditure

311 Policy Development and Administration

312 Public Works

313 Transport

Capital Expenditure

311 Policy Development and Administration

312 Public Works

313 Transport

38 – MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Current Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

382 Labour Administration Services

Capital Expenditure

381 Policy Development and Administration

382 Labour Administration Services

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 7.58 p.m., the Prime Minister 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.

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

At 8.29 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

39 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Current Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

392 Social Services

393 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

392 Social Services

393 Child Care and Protection

10.

Return of the Speaker

At 9.32 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

45 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

Current Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

452 Housing Development

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

Capital Expenditure

451 Policy Development and Administration

452 Housing Development

453 Water Service Expansion and Management

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.47 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 Thursday, 1st February, 2024.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.
31st January, 2024.

