

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 79<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 THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 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 (Virtual Participation)

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. (Virtual-Participation)

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

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

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. (Virtual-Participation)  
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. (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. (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 Kisoorn, 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 11.25 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 Soesdyke Secondary School to the Sitting and informed them that they will be witnessing the consideration of the 2024 of Revenue and Expenditure.

**2. Late Start**

The Speaker apologized for the late start of the Sitting and explained that it was due to problems with the power supply which affected the microphones.

**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)**

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6.

**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:

**13 – MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Current Expenditure**

131 Policy Development and Administration

133 Regional Development

134 Local Government Development

**Capital Expenditure**

131 Policy Development and Administration

133 Regional Development

134 Local Government Development

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 12.43 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 2.20 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:

7.

**71 – REGION NO. 1: BARIMA/WAINI**

**Current Expenditure**

711 Regional Administration and Finance

712 Public Works

713 Education Delivery

714 Health Services

715 Agriculture

**Capital Expenditure**

711 Regional Administration and Finance

712 Public Works

713 Education Delivery

714 Health Services

715 Agriculture

**72 – REGION NO.2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM**

**Current Expenditure**

721 Regional Administration and Finance

722 Agriculture

723 Public Works

724 Education Delivery

725 Health Services

**Current Expenditure**

721 Regional Administration and Finance

722 Agriculture

723 Public Works

724 Education Delivery

725 Health Services

8.

**73 – REGION NO. 3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA**

**Current Expenditure**

731 Regional Administration and Finance

732 Agriculture

733 Public Works

734 Education Delivery

735 Health Services

**Capital Expenditure**

731 Regional Administration and Finance

732 Agriculture

733 Public Works

734 Education Delivery

735 Health Services

**Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.**

At 4.40 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

**74 – REGION NO. 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA**

**Current Expenditure**

741 Regional Administration and Finance

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education Delivery

745 Health Services

**Capital Expenditure**

741 Regional Administration and Finance



9.

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education Delivery

745 Health Services

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.03 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 6.29 p.m., the Sitting 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:

**75 – REGION NO. 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE**

**Current Expenditure**

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

754 Education Delivery

755 Health Services

**Capital Expenditure**

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

10.

754 Education Delivery

755 Health Services

**76 – REGION NO. 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE**

**Current Expenditure**

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 7.45 p.m., the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude its business for the day.

**76 – REGION NO. 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE**

**Current Expenditure**

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

764 Education Delivery

765 Health Services

**Capital Expenditure**

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

764 Education Delivery

765 Health Services

**77 – REGION NO. 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI**

**Current Expenditure**

771 Regional Administration and Finance

11.

**Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.**

At 8.27 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P., took the Chair.

**77 – REGION NO. 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI**

**Current Expenditure**

772 Public Works

773 Education Delivery

774 Health Services

775 Agriculture

**Capital Expenditure**

771 Regional Administration and Finance

772 Public Works

773 Education Delivery

774 Health Services

775 Agriculture

**78 – REGION NO. 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI**

**Current Expenditure**

781 Regional Administration and Finance

782 Public Works

783 Education Delivery

784 Health Services

785 Agriculture

**Capital Expenditure**

781 Regional Administration and Finance

782 Public Works

783 Education Delivery

784 Health Services

785 Agriculture

**Return of the Speaker**

At 9.46 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

**Assembly resumed.**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 9.47 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 9.53 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:

**79 – REGION NO. 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO**

**Current Expenditure**

791 Regional Administration and Finance

792 Agriculture

793 Public Works

794 Education Delivery

795 Health Services

**Capital Expenditure**

791 Regional Administration and Finance

- 792 Agriculture
- 793 Public Works
- 794 Education Delivery
- 795 Health Services

**80 – REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE**

**Current Expenditure**

- 801 Regional Administration and Finance
- 802 Public Works
- 803 Education Delivery
- 804 Health Services
- 805 Agriculture

**Capital Expenditure**

- 801 Regional Administration and Finance
- 802 Public Works
- 803 Education Delivery
- 804 Health Services

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11.43 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.



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

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**  
**Public Buildings,**  
**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

**1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024.**