

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 92ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10:00 A.M.
ON FRIDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2025,
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 on – Leave)

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 (16)

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

***Non-Elected Member**

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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
(Virtual – Participation)

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 (15)

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

*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Hon. Nandranie Coonjah, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Suresh Singh, M.P.

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. (Absent on – Leave)

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.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

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.
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) (Virtual–
Participation)
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 10.43 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcement:

1. CONDOLENCES

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the National Assembly and himself, expressed sincere condolences to Hon. Roysdale Forde, S.C., M.P., and his family on the passing of his mother.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. TEACHERS' SALARY

Member Asking: **Mr. Richard Sinclair, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

(1) Can the Minister inform the National Assembly how many teachers in regions (1-10), NET salary per month is less than One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) for Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools.

(2) Can the Minister also inform the National Assembly how many teachers in regions (1-10), NET salary per month is more than One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) but less than Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) for Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools.

6.

- (3) Can the Minister further inform the National Assembly how many teachers in regions (1-10), NET salary per month is more than Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) but less than Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) for Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools.

(Notice Paper No. 338 (Q254 Opp.254) published on 2024-06-28)

ANSWERS

Please see **Appendix 1** for the answers to the abovementioned questions.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2025 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2025

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025.

(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service on 2025-01-17)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Juretha Fernandes, M.P.,

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12:22 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1:51 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

7.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Hugh Todd, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Warren McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Hon. Sarah Browne, M.P.

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4:55 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5:53 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

Presiding by Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P.

At 5.55 p.m. while the Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dr. Asha Kissoon, M.P., took the Chair.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

8.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Lee Williams, M.P.

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.51 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Monday, 27th January, 2025.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

24th January 2025.