

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 95<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

**AT 10:00 A.M.**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> 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

**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

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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 (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. Vincero 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) (Virtual – Participation)  
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 10.15 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

**1. Visitors**

The Speaker welcomed teachers and students from the Tutorial High School to the Assembly.

**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. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.,

Hon. Sonia Parag, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. David Patterson, M.P.

Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works

6.

**Presiding by Hon. Alister Charlie, M.P.**

At 12.20 p.m. while the Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works was speaking to the motion the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Alister Charlie, M.P., took the Chair.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 12.27 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works, continued and concluded his speech.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 12:57 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3:16 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.**

**The following Members also spoke to the motion:**

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government & Regional Development

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.,

Hon. Collin Croal, M.P., Minister of Housing & Water

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

7.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6:28 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7:38 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. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

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

At 7.48 p.m., while Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Minister of Human Services & Social Security, moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude its business for the day.

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis M.P., continued and concluded her speech.

**The following Members also spoke to the motion:**

Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services & Social Security

Hon. Richard Sinclair, M.P.

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Works

Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P.

8.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.24 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

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

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

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**