

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 96TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10:00 A.M.
ON THURSDAY, 30TH 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. 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

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 10.11 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcement:

1. Visitors

The Speaker welcomed teachers and students from Cummings Lodge Secondary School and Apex Academy to the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 – Bill No. 2/2025

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

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)**

6.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P.,

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Governance &
Government Chief Whip

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

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

At 11.50 p.m. while the Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P., was speaking to the motion the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P., took the Chair.

Hon. Catherine Hughes, M.P., continued and concluded her speech.

Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs also spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12:32 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1:46 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. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

Welcome

The Speaker welcomed Mr. Lennox Shuman, Former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Mr. Alfred Mentore, Mayor of Georgetown, to the Assembly.

7.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3:32 p.m., the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3:47 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. Aubrey Norton, M.P., Leader of the Opposition also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

CONCLUSION OF BUDGET DEBATE

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and approve of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2025 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, and passed a Resolution on the matter.

Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Timetable were circulated to Members at today's Sitting.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance & the Public Service, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in its Resolution.

8.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Supply would commence consideration of the 2025 Estimates of Expenditure at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 31st January, 2025.

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.56 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Friday, 31st January, 2025.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

30th January 2025.