

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 97TH 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, 31ST 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 (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 (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. (Absent)

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)(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

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 10.26 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service:

The Value-Added Tax (Amendment of Schedule I) Order 2025 – No. 2 of 2025.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

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

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider 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)

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

6.

Capital Expenditure

211 Ministry Administration

Current Expenditure

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

Capital Expenditure

212 Agriculture Development and Support Services

Current Expenditure

213 Fisheries

Capital Expenditure

213 Fisheries

Current Expenditure

214 Hydrometeorological Services

Capital Expenditure

214 Hydrometeorological Services

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.24 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.45 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:

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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
- 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

Capital Expenditure

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

31 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Current Expenditure

- 311 Policy Development and Administration
- 312 Public Works
- 313 Transport

Capital Expenditure

- 311 Policy Development and Administration

8.

312 Public Works

313 Transport

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.45 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.59 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 8.00 p.m., the Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude its business for the day.

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:

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

39 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Current Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

392 Social Services

393 Childcare and Protection

Capital Expenditure

391 Policy Development and Administration

392 Social Services

393 Childcare and Protection

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

40 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Current Expenditure

401 Policy Development and Administration

402 Training and Development

403 Nursery Education

404 Primary Education

405 Secondary Education

406 Post - Secondary/Tertiary Education

Capital Expenditure

- 401 Policy Development and Administration
- 402 Training and Development
- 403 Nursery Education
- 404 Primary Education
- 405 Secondary Education
- 406 Post - Secondary/Tertiary Education

44 – MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

Current Expenditure

- 441 Policy Development and Administration
- 442 Culture
- 443 Youth
- 444 Sports

Capital Expenditure

- 441 Policy Development and Administration
- 442 Culture
- 443 Youth
- 444 Sports

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1.22 a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Monday, 3rd February, 2025.



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

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

31st January 2025.