

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 101ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10:00 A.M.
ON MONDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 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
(Absent)

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 (Absent – on Leave)

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. (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)

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 Kissoon, 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 10.21 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

1. Birthday Salutation

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the National Assembly and himself, extended happy birthday wishes to Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

2. Condolences

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the National Assembly and himself, extended condolences to Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, on the passing of his mother.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Friday, 24th January, 2025.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Public Works:

The Civil Aviation (Operations) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 – No. 2/2025.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRICKDAM POLICE STATION

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. Can the Honorable Minister inform the National Assembly of the total Project cost for constructing the Brickdam Police Station?
2. Can the Honourable Minister state the percentage of works with costs paid out as of October 25, 2024, for construction of the Brickdam Police Station?
3. Can the Honourable Minister state when the project is likely to be completed as per the contract agreement?
4. Can Honourable Minister lay over to the National Assembly copies of the Contract agreement between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the contractor for the Brickdam Police Station project?

(Notice Paper No. 371 (Q279 Opp.279) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

1. “The total Project Cost for the Reconstruction of the Brickdam Police Station is \$5,922,063,000.
2. As of October 25, 2024, the percentage of work completed for the project was about 10%. A total of \$1, 493,870,244 was paid on the project as of October 25, 2024, which included a 15% advance payment of \$888,329,204.
3. The project completion date according to the contract is 15th July, 2026.
4. This contract can be viewed at the Ministry of Home Affairs”.

**2. NAME AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE COMPANY
CONSTRUCTING THE BRICKDAM POLICE STATION**

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

7.

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Home Affairs**

Can the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with the name and brief background information of the Company awarded the contract to construct the Brickdam Police Station?

(Notice Paper No. 372 (Q280 Opp.280) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

“The name of the Contractor that was awarded the contract for the reconstruction of the Brickdam Police Station is **R. Bassoo and Sons Construction Company and Qingjian Group Company**. R. Bassoo and Sons Construction Company has worked for the Ministry on one other project in recent years”.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF THE KITTY POLICE STATION

Member Asking: **Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Home Affairs**

1. Can the Honorable Minister inform the National Assembly of the total Project cost for the construction of the Kitty Police Station?
2. Can the Honourable Minister state the percentage of works with costs paid out as of October 25, 2024, on the construction of the Kitty Police Station?
3. Can the Honourable Minister state when the project is likely to be completed as per the contract agreement?
4. Can Honourable Minister lay over to the National Assembly copies of the Contract agreement between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the contractor for the Kitty Police Station project?

(Notice Paper No. 373 (Q281 Opp.281) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

1. “The total Project Cost for the Reconstruction of the Kitty Police Station is \$191,907,925.

8.

2. As of October 25, 2024, the percentage of work completed for the project was about 68%. A total of \$71,019,977, was paid on the project as of October 25, 2024, which included a 15% advance payment of \$28,786,188, that was paid in 2023.
3. The project completion date according to the contract is 13th January, 2025.
4. This contract can be viewed at the Ministry of Home Affairs”.

**4. NAME AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE COMPANY
CONSTRUCTING THE KITTY POLICE STATION**

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with the name and brief background information of the Company to whom the Contract for Kitty Police Station has been awarded?

(Notice Paper No. 374 (Q282 Opp.282) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

“The name of the Contractor that was awarded the contract for the reconstruction of the Kitty Police Station is **Dundas Construction Inc.** This contractor has worked for the Ministry on one other project in recent years”.

5. CONSTRUCTION OF THE BETERVERWAGTING POLICE STATION

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly whether monies were allocated in the estimates of 2024, for the construction of the Beterverwagting Police Station?
2. Can the Honorable Minister inform the National Assembly of the total Project cost for construction of the Beterverwagting Police Station?
3. Can the Honourable Minister state the percentage of works with costs paid out as of October 25, 2024, on the construction of the BV Police Station?

9.

4. Can the Honourable Minister state when the project commenced and is likely to be completed as per the contract agreement?
5. Can Honourable Minister lay over to the National Assembly copies of the Contract Agreement between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the contractor for the BV Police Station project?

(Notice Paper No. 375 (Q283 Opp.283) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

1. “A total of 38,450,000, was allocated in the estimates of 2024 for the reconstruction of the Beterverwagting Police Station.
2. The total Project Cost for the reconstruction of the Beterverwagting Police Station is \$119,027,202.
3. The project completion date according to the contract is 1st September, 2025.
4. This contract can be viewed at the Ministry of Home Affairs”.

**6. MEMBERS OF THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE
CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY GRANT PROGRAMME**

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

1. How many members comprise the Interview Committee that determines the awardees of the Culture and Creative Industry Grant?
2. What are the designations of the Members of the Committee?

(Notice Paper No. 394 (Q302 Opp.302) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

1. “Four (4) Members.
2. Designations of the members of the Committee – Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chair), Director of Culture, Director of National Events and Technical Officer”.

6. NUMBER OF ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS AWARDED THE CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY GRANT PROGRAMME

Member Asking: Ms. Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

Can the Minister provide the number of artists and musicians who were awarded the Culture and Creative Industry Grant in 2024.

(Notice Paper No. 395 (Q303 Opp.303) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

“Thirty-two (32)”.

7. VENEZUELA-GUYANA BORDER CONTROVERSY

Member Asking: Mr. Devin Sears, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

What is the status of the ongoing proceedings and discussions regarding the Venezuela-Guyana territorial controversy?

(Notice Paper No. 396 (Q304 Opp.304) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

“Guyana remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the controversy over the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award in accordance with international law, as determined by the ICJ. On the 9th December 2024, Guyana submitted to the Court its final written brief on the merits. Venezuela’s final written submission is due to be filed on 11 August 2025. Guyana looks forward to the receipt of Venezuela’s legal arguments, and to engaging with Venezuela at the oral hearings that will be scheduled by the Court soon thereafter.

Most recently, President Maduro, as well as the National Electoral Council of Venezuela made public statements announcing Venezuela’s plan to hold elections on April 27, 2025 in “Guyana Esequiba,” in which “the people of “Guayana Esequiba” will elect a “Governor of Guyana Esequiba State,” this portends an effort by Venezuela to carry out

Governmental activities – elections – within Guyana’s sovereign territory. It would be the most blatant and threatening act of aggression by Venezuela thus far, and it would be tantamount to the physical takeover of an integral part of Guyana.

The Government of Guyana immediately brought this threat to the attention of the United Nations Secretary General and the Secretaries General of CARICOM and the Commonwealth. The statements were also brought to the attention of the ICJ, wherein Guyana emphasized that it considers President Maduro’s statement both an affront to our sovereignty and territorial integrity, and an offense against the order of the Court of 1 December 2023. Guyana also appealed to the international community at large to see its influence with Venezuela to persuade it to refrain from unilateral actions to change the status quo pending the final resolution of the controversy by the ICJ, and to respect and abide by the final judgement of the Court, whatever it may be (as Guyana has already pledged to do).

While we remain committed to the ICJ as the means of settlement of this controversy we have indicated that we also remain open to establishing and maintaining friendly relations with Venezuela. We are not however open to have any discussion on the matter of the border or any other issue that is before the Court and no such discussions have ever been conducted”.

8. SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR VENEZUELAN RESIDING IN GUYANA

Member Asking: Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Minister provide an updated list of the names of the settlements established by the Government for Venezuelans residing in Guyana?

(Notice Paper No. 404 (Q312 Opp.312) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

“The Farm Corp is the one settlement near Mabaruma in Region One (1) that the Government of Guyana has established for Venezuelans residing in Guyana, which is also used for transit purposes”.

For Oral Replies**9. *PUBLIC SERVANTS EMPLOYED ON CONTRACT**

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service the following question:

* Can the Hon Minister please inform the House of the number of Public Servants currently employed on contract, as of November 2024, outside of the remit of the Public Service Commission?

(Notice Paper No. 397 (Q305 Opp.305) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

10. *PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO RESIGNED FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service the following question:

13.

* Can the Honourable Minister indicate the number of public servants including those from the traditional public service (nurses, doctors, teachers, police officers, soldiers) that have resigned from the public service since August 2020 – November 2024?

(Notice Paper No. 398 (Q306 Opp.306) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, M.P asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

11. *TIME SERVED ON A GOVERNMENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, M.P., asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service the following question:

* Can the Honourable Minister inform the House whether the Public Service Ministry was willing to shorten the time served on a government's scholarship for a Degree, from five to three years before the person pursues specialization?

(Notice Paper No. 399 (Q307 Opp.307) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, M.P asked the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

12. *RECENT MATERNAL AND NEONATAL DEATHS AT THE NEW AMSTERDAM AND SUDDIE HOSPITALS

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*Can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly what are some of the causes of the recent maternal and neonatal deaths at the New Amsterdam and Suddie Hospitals earlier in the year?

(Notice Paper No. 405 (Q313 Opp.313) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P asked the Minister of Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

13. *SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR DOCTORS AT THE OBSTETRIC WARDS OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*Can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly if there is adequate, as is required, supervision of Junior Doctors by experienced and skilled health personnel at the Obstetric Wards of the Regional Hospitals, bearing in mind that the health system is itself hemorrhaging from significant loss of Senior staff members?

(Notice Paper No. 406 (Q314 Opp.314) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

14. *TREND IN MATERNAL AND NEONATAL DEATHS BY YOUTHS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following question:

*Can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly if a trend has been detected in maternal and neonatal deaths that are linked to and or driven by youths and young adults who are primigravida?

(Notice Paper No. 407 (Q315 Opp.315) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. asked the Minister of Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Readings

ITEM 1 - COURT OF APPEAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 – Bill No. 3/2025

The Minister of Education, on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL initiated AN ACT to amend the Court of Appeal Act.

ITEM 2 - ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION AND PASSENGER NAME RECORD BILL 2025 – Bill No. 4/2025

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the collection, transmission, sharing, storage and regulation of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record in respect of persons travelling to, departing from and transiting through Guyana and to operationalise the CARICOM Advance Passenger Information System and other related matters.

ITEM 3 - REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM BILL 2025 – Bill No. 5/2025

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Regional Security System and for connected matters.

ITEM 4 - CARICOM ARREST WARRANT BILL 2025 – Bill No.6/2025

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty and to provide for related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - REHABILITATION OF THE LE REPENTIR CEMETERY

Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P. moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Le Repentir Cemetery was established in 1861 as the final resting place for persons residing in our Capital City Georgetown;

AND WHEREAS over several years we the citizens have witnessed its expansion from its original size from 103.508 acres to some 106.508 acres, thus utilizing all the land available;

AND WHEREAS over several years, we have witnessed the degradation of the land, which has resulted in tombs falling into the canals, cracking tombs and, in some cases, some are broken. While the drainage has become almost non-existent, thus creating what looks like a jungle and a haven for persons of nefarious characters;

AND WHEREAS the Georgetown City Council is unable to garner adequate funds to provide services such as security and maintenance, among others;

AND WHEREAS Guyanese of all races, religions and financial standing are unable to visit the final resting place of their loved ones.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to upgrade this historic facility and implement a plan for its maintenance, including the drainage infrastructure, thereby elevating it to the status of a national memorial.

(Notice Paper No. 369 (M88 Opp 15) published on 2025-01-14)

Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.10 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.27 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to motion:

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Brindley Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

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

Hon. Charles Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

Presiding by Hon. Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 2.58 p.m., while Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber, and Hon. Dr. Asha Kisson, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, took the Chair.

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., continued and concluded his speech.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 3.51 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber

Hon. Sonia Parag, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P., replied.

STANDING ORDER 39(2)

In accordance with Standing Order 39(2), the Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works, concluded the debate on the motion.

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

- (i) After the last AND WHEREAS add a new AND WHEREAS which reads as follows:-

"AND WHEREAS the Government has initiated a plan to upgrade cemeteries across the country, including Le Repentlr Cemetery in 2025;"

- (ii) amend the BE IT RESOLVED clause aa follows:-

Remove the Words "calls on" and replace with the word

"supports" add the words "in its efforts" after the word

"Government"

Add the word " to" before the word " implement"

Change the word "a" to "the" before the word " plan"

The amended clause will now read:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this National Assembly supports the Government in its efforts to upgrade this historic facility and to implement the plan for its maintenance, including drainage infrastructure, thereby elevating it to the status of a national memorial.""

The motion, as amended, was put and carried.

(ii) GOVERNMENTS BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 22/2024 published on 2024-12-18

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Financial Institutions Act.

(Read a first time on 2024-12-18)

Hon. Juretha Fernandes, M.P., spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2024, was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - ENGINEERS BILL 2024 – Bill No. 21/2024 published on 2024-12-17

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68, the Minister of Public Works requested that the following Bill be withdrawn:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration and regulation of persons in the practice of engineering in Guyana and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2024-12-18)

ITEM 4 - GUYANA HORSE RACING AUTHORITY BILL 2024 – Bill No. 23/2024 published on 2024-12-18

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the following Bill was **deferred**:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the regulation of the horse racing industry; to establish a Horse Racing Authority, and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2024-12-18)

ITEM 5 - INTERNATIONAL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (HAGUE CONVENTION) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 15/2024 published on 2024-11-21

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Minister of Human Services and Social Security, the following Bill was **deferred**:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect to the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, and for other related matters.

(Read a first time on 2024-11-25)

ITEM 6 - APOSTILLE BILL 2024 – Bill No. 19/2024 published on 2024-11-27

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, the following Bill was **deferred**:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to implement the Convention Abolishing the requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents done at the Hague on the 5th day of October, 1961 and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2024-11-27)

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Manzoor Nadeem", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

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

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

17th February, 2025.