

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2025 - 2026) OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026,
IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (42)

People's Progressive Party Civic (42)

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 (Virtual Participation)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (18)

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

Hon. Hugh H. Todd, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

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. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara), Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini), Minister of Housing

Hon. Dr. Vindhya V.H. Persaud, M.S., M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Sonia S. Parag, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice), Minister of Education

Hon. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo), Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation

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

Hon. Sarah Browne-Shadeek, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Zulfikar Ally, M.P., Minister of the Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation

*Hon. Keoma D. Griffith, M.P., Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning

Junior Ministers (6)

Hon. Pauline R.A. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni), Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Warren K.E. McCoy, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara), Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Vanessa I.S. Benn, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Housing

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***Non-Elected Member**

3.

*Hon. Madanlall Ramraj, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Works

*Hon. Steven Jacobs, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

Other Members (15)

Hon. Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Hon. Lenox R.O. Shuman, M.P.

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Jennifer R. A. Westford, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Alister S. Charlie, M.P.

Hon. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Hon. Bhagmattie S. Veerasammy, M.P.

Hon. Suresh Singh, M.P.

Hon. James A. Bond, M.P.

Hon. Peter R. Ramsaroop, M.P.

Hon. Sonia N. Latchman, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Zamal Hussain, M.P.

*Hon. Thandi McAllister, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation

*Hon. Mischka White-Griffith, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (29)

(i) We Invest In Nationhood (WIN) (16)

Hon. Azruddin I. Mohamed, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Opposition Chief Whip

Hon. Natasha Singh, M.P.

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

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Non-Elected Member

4.

Hon. Odessa T. Primus, M.P.

Hon. Vishnu D. Panday, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Gordon N. Barker, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hon. Nandranie Singh, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Andre A. Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Toshana T. Femey-Corlette, M.P.

Hon. Duarte O. Hetsberger, M.P.

Hon. Gobin H. Harbhajan, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Hon. Beverley A. Cornelius, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Deon W. La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Hon. Janelle D. Sweatnam, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Dr. Ryan M. Richards, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

(ii) A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) (12)

Hon. Dr. Terrence I.E. Campbell, M.P.

Hon. Vinceroy H. Jordon, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Hon. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P.

Hon. Dr. David S.A. Hinds, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Dexter M.G. Todd, M.P.

Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Coretta A. Mc Donald, A.A., M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Riaz Z. Rupnarain, M.P.

Hon. Kuice S. Solomon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Hon. Saiku F. Andrews, M.P.

(iii) Forward Guyana Movement (FGM) (1)

Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton, M.P.

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 2.14 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Hon. Speaker made the following announcements: -

1. Congratulations to Members of the National Assembly

“Hon. Members, let me, once again, take this opportunity to congratulate all the Members of the National Assembly who have been elected to this Thirteenth Parliament. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Ministers on their selections and the Leader of the Opposition on his election.”

2. The Supreme Organs

“Hon. Members, there are three documents with which we need to be very familiar. The Constitution of Guyana, our Standing Orders, and our Handbook for Members of Parliament. Whilst I raise the three of them, I want to draw attention to Article 50 of our Constitution, which outlines the Supreme Organs of the State. Those being the Parliament, according to Article 51, being constituted of the President and the National Assembly. The second Organ of Supremacy is the President, and the third is the Cabinet.

I raise these documents in particular because a lot has been said, in and out of us being in a formal sitting, and especially vile comments emanating from our duly elected Leader of the Opposition, speaking about the corruption of the Speaker. Anyone wanting to criticise the Speaker can do so via a motion in the House. So, while I have thick skin and my forty-five years in public life has

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tempered me well, I am not averse to acting firmly. So those comments levelled at me by our Leader of the Opposition are still among the items which could possibly go to a Privilege Committee.”

3. Election of Leader of the Opposition

“Hon. Members, at 10 a.m., this morning, according to the Constitution Article 184 (1), I convened the meeting of Non-Governmental Members of Parliament for the Election of the Leader of the Opposition. Paragraph 4 of that article says that the Leader of the Opposition shall be elected by a show of hands, regardless of whether there is only one nominee.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Azruddin Mohamed, was nominated and seconded, and before the vote could have been taken, the Hon. Members of the A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) left the meeting. Those who indicated by show of hands that they were voting for the Hon. Member Mr. Mohammed as Leader of the Opposition included the Hon. Azruddin Mohamed, the Hon. Tabitha Sarabo- Halley, the Hon. Natasha Singh, the Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, Hon. Odessa Primus, Hon. Pandit Vishnu Panday, Hon. Gordon Barker, Hon. Nandranie Singh, Hon. Dr. Andre Lewis, Hon. Toshana Towana Famey-Corlette, Hon. Duarte Hetsberger, Hon. Gobin Harbhajan, Hon. Beverley Cornelius, Hon. Deon La Cruz, Hon. Janelle Sweatnam and Hon. Dr. Ryan Richards, who are from the We Invest in Nationhood (W.I.N.) Party, along with Hon. Member Ms. Amanza Walton. Seventeen Members voted for the Hon. Member, Mr. Azruddin Mohamed to be the Leader of the Opposition.

I have since transmitted that information by letter to His Excellency, President Dr. Irfaan Ali.”

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip:

Audited Financial Statements of the Rights of the Child Commission for the year ended 31st December, 2024.

(Circulated)

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(2) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:

- (i) Government Notice No. 5/2025, regarding Notification Receipts of all petroleum revenues paid into the Natural Resource Fund during the period 1st October, 2025 to 29th December, 2025.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Budget Speech for 2026.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2026.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Financial Paper No. 2/2025 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund totalling \$18,821,223,636 for the period 18th November, 2025 to 16th December, 2025.

(Circulated)

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance informed the Assembly that the Financial Paper will be considered upon the conclusion of the 2026 Budget.

(3) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Tint) Regulations 2026 – No. 1 of 2026.

(Circulated)

8.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2026 at the Sitting of the National Assembly on Monday, January 26, 2026.

(Notice Paper No. 70 (M2 Govt 1) published on 2026-01-19)

The motion was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Assembly nominated the Members to comprise the Committee of Selection.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip nominated the following Members to serve on the Committee of Selection:

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (4)

1. Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister
2. Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
3. Hon. Kwame McKoy, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
4. Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Thereafter, Mrs. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, nominated the following Members to serve on the Committee of Selection:

We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) (2)

1. Ms. Odessa Primus, M.P.
2. Ms. Nandranie Singh, M.P.

Thereafter, Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., nominated the following Members to serve on the Committee of Selection:

A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) (2)

1. Dr. Terrance Campbell, M.P.
2. Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

ITEM 2 - BUDGET FOR 2026

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified that the Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2026.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2026 of the total sum of one trillion, four hundred and fifty-five billion, nine hundred and twenty-five million, five hundred and thirty-six thousand, six hundred and fourteen dollars (1,455,925,536,614) excluding one hundred and one billion, five hundred and ninety six million, seven hundred and twelve thousand, four hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$101,596,712,422) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarized in Schedule 1 and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and make further provision in respect of finance.

That the National Assembly approves the recommended lump sum subvention for each Constitutional Agency for the financial year 2026 as stated in Schedule 2, amounting to a total sum of nineteen billion, nine hundred and fifty two million, one hundred and seventy two thousand, seven hundred and forty six dollars (\$19,952,172,746) which is charged upon the Consolidated Fund by the Constitution and for the sums voted for the Constitutional Agencies to form part of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2026.

That this National Assembly approves the sum of \$495,048,806,789, equivalent to US\$2,374,334,805, to be withdrawn from the Natural Resource Fund for the financial year 2026 in accordance with the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021. **(See Appendix)**

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance read the Budget Speech.

Presiding by Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 4.17 p.m., while the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance was speaking, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, took the Chair.

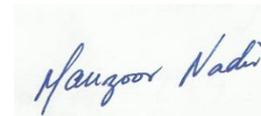
At 5.50 p.m., the Speaker of the National Assembly returned to the Chamber.

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance continued and concluded his speech.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance congratulated Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, on the presentation of Budget 2026. The Speaker joined the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance in congratulating Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.14 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026.



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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

January 26, 2026.