

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

Part I of II

65th Sitting

14:00h

Thursday 30 October 2008

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

The Hon Hari N Ramkarran SC, MP

Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (41)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

The United Force (1)

The Hon Samuel A A Hinds MP

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon Clement J Rohee MP

Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon Shaik K Z Baksh MP

Minister of Education

The Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey MP

Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

The Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy MP

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

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Minister of Health

The Hon Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett MP

(R# 9 - U Takutu/U Esseq)

Minister of Foreign Affairs

*The Hon Dr Ashni Singh MP

Minister of Finance

The Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt MP

Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon Robert M Persaud MP

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

Minister of Agriculture

The Hon Dr Jennifer R A Westford MP

(R#7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Minister of the Public Service

The Hon Kellawan Lall MP

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon Doodnauth Singh SC, MP *(Absent)*

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon Dr Frank C S Anthony MP *(Absent)*

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon B H Robeson Benn MP

Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

†The Hon Manzoor Nadir MP

Minister of Labour

The Hon Priya D Manickchand MP

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon Dr Desrey Fox MP *- (AOL)*

Minister in the Ministry of Education

* Non-elected Minister

† Elected Member from TUF

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The Hon Bheri S Ramsaran MD, MP - (AOL)

Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon Jennifer I Webster MP

Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon Manniram Prashad MP

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

* Mrs Pauline R Sukhai MP

Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Mr Donald Ramotar MP

The Hon Gail Teixeira MP

Mr Harripersaud Nokta MP

Mrs Indranie Chandarpal MP, Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S Shadick MP

(R# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Mohamed Irfaan Ali MP

Mr Albert Atkinson JP, MP

(R# 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr Komal Chand CCH, JP, MP

(R# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Bernard C DeSantos SC, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs Shirley V Edwards JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Mohamed F Khan JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr Odinga N Lumumba MP

Mr Moses V Nagamootoo JP, MP

Mr Mohabir A Nandlall MP

Mr Neendkumar JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

‡ Mr Steve P Ninvalle MP

Parl'ry Sect'ry in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

‡ Non-elected Member

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Mr Parmanand P Persaud JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury CCH, JP, MP

Parl'ry Sect'ry in the Ministry of Housing and Water

Mr Dharamkumar Seeraj MP

Mr Norman A Whittaker MP

(Absent)

(R# 1 - Bartima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) People's National Congress Reform 1-Guyana (22)

Mr Robert HO Corbin

Leader of the Opposition

Mr Winston S Murray CCH, MP - *(AOL)*

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl MP

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr E Lance Carberry MP - *(AOL)*

Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer MP

Mr Anthony Vieira - *(AOL)*

Mr Basil Williams MP

Dr George A Norton MP

Mrs Volda A Lawrence MP

Mr Keith Scott MP

Miss Amna Ally MP

Mr Dave Danny MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Aubrey C Norton MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Ernest B Elliot MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Miss Judith David-Blair MP

(R# 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr Mervyn Williams MP

(Re# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

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Ms Africo Selman MP

Dr John Austin MP

(R# 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade MP

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms Vanessa Kisooson MP

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

Mr Desmond Fernandes MP

(Region No 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr James K McAllister MP

- (AOL)

(ii) Alliance For Change (5)

Mr Raphael G Trotman MP

(Absent)

Mr Khemraj Ramjattan MP

(Absent)

Mrs Sheila VA Holder MP

(Absent)

Ms Latchmin B Punalall, MP

(Absent)

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr David Patterson MP

(Absent)

(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild (1)

Mr Everall N Franklin MP

OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E Isaacs

Clerk of the National Assembly

Miss Hermina Gilgeours

Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 30 OCTOBER 2008
PRAYERS**

[The Clerk reads the Prayers]

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

For Oral Reply

**NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED UNDER
THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMBATING OF
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT**

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly how many persons have been charged under the provisions of the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, Act No. 2/2005?

Deferred at the request of the Minister of Home Affairs

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL
PARER NO. 3/2008**

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BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2008 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$1,848,047,997 for the period 2008-07-23 to 2008-10-22.

The Speaker: The Assembly will resolve itself into Committee to consider the Financial Paper No. 3 of 2008.

Assembly in Committee of Supply

Question proposed

Page 1

SECTION 'A' CURRENT ESTIMATES

ITEM 1 - AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMME 011 - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Chart of Account 6321

Question is proposed that the sum of \$75,000,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 011 - Administrative Services - Chart of Account 6321 -

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Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin. *[Pause]* I will give you half a minute to get yourselves in order. Financial paper No. 3, Mr Corbin and it is the first Item 1, Agency code 01-011., Office of the President, Administrative Services.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I take it you are at first page Sir, item 1?

The Chairman: Yes, first page, item 1.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes, but Page 30 in the Estimates. I would like to, the Minister, to inform this House:

- whether this \$75,000,000 has already been spent, and
- what percentage of this \$75,000,000, if indeed it has been spent, went to the Joint Services? and
- what percentage went to the alleged informant, if indeed this is a specific reward that was paid for Fineman?

Those are my first set of questions on that item.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister in the

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Ministry of Finance.

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Chairman, the \$75,000,000 being requested now, \$25,000,000 of that amount represents meeting the rental shortfall of the IAST. IAST and EPA share common office facilities, and \$25,000,000 of that sum is meant to meet that expenditure.

As it relates to the question asked by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I wish to say that the sum of \$50,000,000 was publicly announced to meet expenditure related to intelligence gathering re Operation Restore Order; \$20,000,000 of that is meant to go to the Guyana Police Force; another \$20,000,000 to the Guyana Defence Force, and the remainder will be disbursed subject to approval by the Defence Board.

The Chairman: The Honorable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Supplementary again, Sir. I am not sure from what the Honourable Minister has said, this note specifically states, to cover IAST rent, shortfall from Environmental Protection Agency, but she has clarified that \$25,000,000 is going there. We already have \$669 million voted under this provision earlier in the year. So I am trying to find out from that \$75,000,000, it means indeed \$50,000,000 is left. So my question is what percentage of this amount is being

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paid to the Agency then, now that she said 20 and 20 is 40; what percentage is going directly to the agency for their own use, and what percentage is going to the informant. Unless she is saying that this is not the money that is paying the reward for Fineman and this is for other rewards. Because it says payment of reward offered in fighting crime, and the only one that I know about, Sir, is the one that was publicly announced for Fineman. So am assuming that this is the supplementary provision sought. So all I need to know, I am not asking the name of the informant, I just want to know what percentage is going to the agency, and what percentage is being paid to the informant.

Hon Jennifer I Webster: I think, Mr. Chairman, I already said that the funds are going to be utilized for whistleblowers, informants, et cetera, and they will be disbursed accordingly as I stated earlier.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: So the Minister saying that this has nothing to do with the reward for Fineman, then?

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Well, Mr. Chairman, I did not make any mention of anyone.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Is this a new head which is being created under the Office of the President under this head for payment to the security forces for paying whistleblowers, or this was a regular head, and if so,

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what was the previous amounts allocated for that purpose?

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Chairman, in our 2008 budget, we would have voted funding under this same sub-head of charge, for the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre and that sum is going to be disbursed through that head.

The Chairman: Mr. Norton.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, could the Hon Minister tell this House, she said it was 20/20/10, what were the factors and the criteria utilized for that type of distribution?

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Speaker, in response to that question, I am unable to answer that at this present time.

Mr Aubrey Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think in the circumstances, you walk with your technical people, so you consult with them and they tell us.

The Chairman: Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Members, there is in an omission in our procedure, just to allow me to correct before I proceed to put the item.

The Hon Minister of Finance

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Hon Dr. Ashni K Singh: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman. In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, I signify that Cabinet has recommended for consideration by the Assembly the motion for the approval of the provisions set out in the financial paper No. 3 of 2008, supplementary, schedule of supplementary provisions, current and capital estimates totaling \$1,848,047,997 for the period from 23 July to 22 October 2008. And I now move the motion.

The Chairman: Thank you Honourable Members, the motion is proposed, and we should, we will consider the paper as usual, that is, items will be taken from both the capital and current estimates, in the order for which the Minister is responsible.

Honorable Members, we have completed Item 1 - Agency 01 - Programme 011. Allow me now to put that item, and then proceed to the next one. I have proposed the question ... You have not finished Mr. Norton?

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chariman, I wanted to ask a question on the rent.

The Chairman: On the... ?

Mr Aubrey C Norton: On the first part, the shortfall of the rent. I wanted to ask the Honorable Minister:

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- If there's a contract between the two agencies, that are government agencies, and
- If there was a contract, why we didn't know how much we had to pay at the beginning of 2008, and if we didn't have it, so that we should know why we didn't

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Chairman, the two agencies, they have an arrangement in writing, whereby they share common office space, and in doing so, one agency is responsible for meeting the cost of all utilities, so the other agency pays based on a computation, rental to offset the electricity charges, et cetera, incurred by that agency, and it is reflected through a rental agreement.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the question was answered. You said to me that there is this agreement, but I am saying if there is this agreement, that this would have been known at the beginning when a budget was prepared for the year. Unless you are saying to me that there is a change in the amount. Why do we need to come to the National Assembly for this now? It is a valid question, it should be answered.

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Chairman, I think that the one agency, in projecting the revenue which should have met this expenditure, they had a revenue shortfall,

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and hence that is why we are coming to the House to request the additional funding.

**Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 011
- Administrative Services Chart of Account 6321 -
Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations
- \$75,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part
of the Estimates.**

**ITEM 2 - AGENCY 16 - MINISTRY OF
AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 161 -
AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT - Chart of
Account 6302**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,762,000 of Agency 16 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Programme 161 - Amerindian Development - Chart of Account 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Permit me Sir, just to say that I should have spoken after the Minister of Finance, as originally planned, but since he did not present his paper, just to place on record, our presence here in this Parliament this afternoon under serious protest. Had it not been for the financial matters that are being discussed, we would have stayed away from this

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Parliament this afternoon, because of the Government's breach of faith that this week we should have been meeting on Wednesday to deal with Members' business, and it is only because of the fact that billions of dollars are going to sneak through this Parliament, that we opted to be here. Yes, if we were not here, it would be sneaked through without question. That is the only reason why we are here, to question these finance, but we are meeting under serious protest for breach of faith, and failure to observe a decision of the Parliamentary Management Committee. And so I would like it to be recorded.

And so my second question, Sir, is on this amount of \$7,000,000 ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Honourable Member maybe seeking to the issue of the last Order Paper on Monday, had three items listed on it, and as it turned out, we only had completed two. In the meanwhile, we had made arrangements for this meeting, with the expectation at the time, maybe it did not turn out to be reasonable perhaps, that we would have completed all three of those motions on Monday afternoon. I think that maybe we need to meet to discuss this matter some more, maybe at a special PMC meeting. We know, we have referred to the minutes of the meeting in which it

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was stated on one part that a fourth meeting would be held on Wednesday, but further down, there was a provision, and as it was, it was raised by, there was a suggestion if not a provision, and as it was, there was a suggestion the if not a provision which was raised by the Honourable Member Mr. Murray that there would be some considerations about enough business being there to hold the meeting. But I do not know that this may be the time and place convenient to really discuss this matter, and maybe we could consider a special PMC meeting to review this matter.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, I think we should clarify it

The Chairman: Mr Corbin, are you proceeding or you want to say something further, because I want to clarify it here and now?

Mr Robert HO Corbin: No, I just want to say your Honour, that on the last occasion, I said nothing; I did not make any fuss in this House. I think you gave proper guidance. And I would have thought that the Government recognizing that they were in breach of that agreement, having failed to communicate with us, would have utilized the gap between that suspension of the House and this sitting, to even attempt to rectify and explain, at least to the People's National Congress Reform these matters, but we have been treated with the usual scant discourtesy, in this same way the Prime

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Minister, at the last he just decided that well, we are going ahead anyway. So that is why I wanted to place on record, there has been absolutely no communication or explanation to the opposition parties, even if it was an emergency. And it is the kind the discourtesy that I am referring to even after you drew it to their attention.

The Chairman: Thank you Honourable Members

Honourable Members, we still have the Item 2, Agency 16 - Programme 161.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes on item 2, now Sir. The original amount was \$62 million, and now we are asking for supplementary provision for \$7 million. I am not necessarily objecting to it, because I do not know the extent of it, and perhaps the original sum was not properly calculated. But it is mentioned to make expenditure for Guardians that could probably be; I do not know, is it because of the steep rise in the cost of living, but they have dorms, uniforms, pocket allowances for the hinterland students, programme based on an increased rate, so I would like to know from the Minister, first of all, how many students are going to benefit from this programme. I have a few more questions, but it may be clarified if I hear how many students.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Amerindian Affairs.

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Hon Pauline R Sukhai: Mr. Chairman, the question was how many students would benefit from this increase; it would be 295 hinterland scholarship students.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Thank you. Would the Honourable Minister be in a position to inform the House what percentage of increase in rates have been approved, and in what areas, so that we can be sure that these students are adequately taken care of because of the rising cost of living?

Hon Pauline R Sukhai: Mr. Chairman, the opposition's question is very relevant. It was the rising cost of living in our country, and the increases were for the guardians. The guardians moved from \$12,000 to \$16,000 and that was the percentage of thirty-three.. The students who reside in the dorms, they had an increase of twenty-nine percent that is from \$3,500 per month to \$4,500. For the uniform allowances, each student who received \$7,000 in the past will now receive \$10,000 which is a forty-three percent increase, and a pocket allowances which was \$2,600 is now going to be \$4,000, and it is an increase of fifty-four percent...

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Could I get the supplementary to the Minister, please? Could the Minister say to us

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when were the original rates set, and how long ago these were set?

Hon Pauline R Sukhai: To appreciate what is happening, is that since 2006 there has been no increase? The increases will take effect from August and will last until December.

Agency 16 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Programme 161 - Amerindian Development - Chart of Account 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - \$7,672,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 3 - AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 212 - CROPS AND LIVESTOCK AND SUPPORT SERVICES - Chart of Account 6321

Question is proposed that the sum of \$600,000,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 212 - Crops and livestock and Support Services - Chart of Account 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes, your Honour. The

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original sum voted was \$524,000,000 and there was a \$31,000,000 sought in previous supplementary provisions. Now this supplementary provision to facilitate the bulk purchase and resale of fertilizer to combat rising food prices is \$600,000,000. My question to the Minister, if this is to facilitate the bulk purchase and resale of fertilizers, is there some revolving fund, I would like some clarity on this because this is treated here in Current Estimates, as though it is expenditure. So I would like some clarification about how this money is treated, because if \$524,000,000 were approved then, and it is being used for purchase in bulk and resale, then that money should be there somewhere either in stock or cash, unless there is some other explanation. Is it that the capital now must move into a billion? I need some clarity.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture

Hon Robert M Persaud: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The intention behind this measure was to provide our farmers with access to fertilizer at an affordable price. Because earlier this year, and late last year, when we saw the steep rise in fuel, and because fertilizer is considered part of the petrochemical industry, fertilizer prices went up as much as sixty percent, and we saw that the increased acquisition

costs was -

- (i) was causing a supply constraint on the local market; and
- (ii) with the increased costs, was also creating some uncertainty in terms of our farmers' ability to able to procure the fertilizer.

And the Government, as part of a comprehensive menu of measures in terms of responding to what we saw globally taking place, and to cushion those effects on the local economy, advanced through this mechanism, and that is what we sought here, the sum of \$600,000,000 to the Guyana Marketing Corporation., which will then engage a supplier and to have the fertilizer brought here in a huge quantity, 12,500 tonnes, so that it can be sold to the farmers at a minimal markup, even zero markup, just recovering the cost. And that sum, once it is recovered, will then be returned or reimbursed to the Contingency Fund. This is intended to be a temporary assistance to the farming community, and those of us who might be looking in terms of tracking of what is taking place; in terms of advertisement and tenders would see that there is currently an advertisement out, and we are inviting a supplier to bring to Guyana or to supply to the New GMC, 12,500 tonnes of fertilizer, that would be going to the rice crop and also the sugar industry.

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Let me also add, the advantage in going in terms of the bulk fertilizer, in that when many of the importers currently bring into the country about 3,000 tonnes, but if we are able to procure 12,500 tonnes, we would get the further reduction. This is all part of our effort, the Government's effort, of looking and ensuring that our farmers get the best deal, and the general population is cushioned from the impact of the increased cost of inputs. *[Applause]*

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Supplementary, Sir.

The Chairman: Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I thank the Minister for this extensive bit of information, but my question really, still stands. You said that this money will be handed back? May I ask the Honourable Minister whether this fertilizer is for the farmers for this year, or next year?

Hon Robert M Persaud: It is intended for the first crop of next year, but I must say that we made efforts to have the fertilizer in the country in October, but that arrangement that was entered into fell through with the supplier. The supplier had some difficulties, and then we had to re-advertise, because we wanted to do this through a public tender process, so that it was transparent and it is open, and no one could accuse the administration of exercising some preference. In the meantime, we have been able to talk with some of the

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regular importers, to ensure that, because there has been a drop globally in the price of fertilizer, and they have been able to bring adequate supplies in, and to assist temporarily in the situation. We have to see this as a dynamic process us and searching for solutions and remedies to global factors which we do not have control over.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I have one final supplementary question.

The Chairman: One minute Mr Corbin; The Honourable Member Mr. Franklin

Mr Everall N Franklin: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just for the Minister, could he state what percentage savings, because he said a lot, but he has not given us a figure stating, due to this bulk purchase, how much are we saving? And together with that, what arrangements have the ministry made for the storage of 12,500 tonnes, because that is a perishable product too:

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

Hon Robert M Persaud: First of all, the world market price, when we had first gone in terms of seeking a supplier, and I am talking about urea here, and this is primarily for the importation of urea, was in the vicinity of US\$860 per metric tonne. Through the bulk

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purchase arrangements and some of the proposals that came in, shows that we could have brought in the fertilizer landed here in Guyana for about US\$540, US\$560 per metric tonne. So you can see the savings there considerable. If you break it down in terms of bag per urea, it was being sold at that time for between \$9,000 to \$11,000 per bag of urea. Based on a proposals we saw, it could have been made available to farmers as low as about US \$6000 per bag. So you can see, between \$4,000, \$3,000 per bag.

In terms of storage, the reason why it is we are seeking to have supplies come in at a particular time, and if you check the advertisement, that is why we say in the advertisement we want the supplies to be in by January, is that we are working it with the cropping pattern, so you do not require much storage space. You are absolutely correct, urea is a very sensitive substance and if it is not stored properly, it can deteriorate. So we are phasing it when GUYSUCO, when sugar requires it, when rice requires it, and also in smaller quantities for the crop sector.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Well, part of my question has been answered, because I wanted to really find out from the Minister what was the projection in terms of the percentage of reduction in the cost of fertilizer to

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the farmer, and what you are saying, it has been reduced by about seventy percent; am I clear? So that is my question, what percentage?

Hon Robert M Persaud: Mr. Chairman, just let me briefly clarify, because this is a public procurement process, and when it is finalized, the issues of pricing will come at the end of the process. And I was just illustrating for the Honourable Member Mr. Franklin that at that time when we first went out, that could have been the reduction passed on. As I said I am quite sure that the price internationally for urea has gone down and I am not sure what the proposals that we will receive, what they will reflect, and then we would be able to pass it onto the farmers. But the aim is that, if the new GMC imports it, it will be at zero mark-up, just taking care of the cost and distribution of the urea to our farmers.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 211- Crops and Livestock and Support Services - Chart of Account 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - \$600,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 511 - SECRETARIAT

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SERVICES - Chart of Account 6231

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,000,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes Sir. I notice that ...
[Interruption]

The Chairman: I will take any one of the three items simultaneously; I will take them simultaneously,

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Any one of the two you mean, Sir?

The Chairman: This would be two, yes.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes. I notice that you have fuel and lubricants of \$3,000,000 and it is interesting that the explanatory remarks that increased visits around the country to address issues relating to piracy and criminal activities, but it is under Secretarial Services. So I am wondering if the Minister can explain what aspect of the secretarial service ...
[Interruption: 'Secretariat Services!'] You are the Minister, you want his job? Would the Minister be good enough to explain to me, Secretarial Services,

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whether there are provisions in the Secretarial Department to deal with the control of piracy, or whether this is intended to facilitate the Minister's travel? I need clarification.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, some years ago, the Public Service Ministry carried out a public service reform, at Government agencies and departments. And as a result of that reform, structural and departmental changes were effected to a number of Government agencies and departments. So that at the Ministry of Home Affairs, if you are to look at how the budget is structured, you will find always that the monies allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs is usually allocated to the Secretariat, because the way the Ministry is structured. If you look at the organogram of the Ministry, the Minister does not have a Secretariat, but the Secretariat of the Ministry constitutes the Permanent Secretary and all the other accounting staff at the Ministry of Home Affairs. So that when we speak about secretariat services", in effect we're talking about the services provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. That is how it is structured and if we are to revisit the budgets that have been presented here over the years; you will find that same kind of presentation. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I

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think that this was the Honourable Minority Leader wants to have clarified.

The Chairman: The Honourable Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: The Minister very skillfully, avoided what I wanted to find out. But I want to clarify my real ... is this Secretariat, you see, I thought that it was the Police Force or the Army that was involved in the control of piracy and criminal activities. So I just wanted to be sure that this is really the department, because this is to increase, visits around the country to address issues related to piracy, or piracy activities. So I do not want to ask the specific activities, because it might be deemed of a security nature, but I just wanted to know whether this function of this organogram includes the control of piracy and criminal activities.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: At the Ministry of Home Affairs, I would probably like to invite the Honourable Minority Leader to make a visit to the Home Affairs Ministry so he could get a conducted tour of the Ministry and how the Ministry is situated. I think that it might serve a very useful purpose; it is just across the road. But at the Ministry of Home Affairs, there is a service called Community Policing Unit and there is

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the Office of the Minister, as well as the Office of the Permanent Secretary. The resources that are allocated under the budget to those offices are the resources that are used, for example, to make visits to the community policing groups around the country, and the increase in the fuel and lubricants cost is associated with visits to community policing groups around the country, as well as to communities that are affected by piracy, because if they keep calling the Ministry to find out what is the Ministry doing, what is the Minister doing, you obviously have to go down to talk to your, to the fisher folk in order to give them some kind of assurances that the Government is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to put things in place and so forth. Thank you.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$3,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 511 - SECRETARIAT SERVICES - Chart of Account 6282

Question is proposed that the sum of \$650,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - Chart of Account 6282 -

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Equipment Maintenance - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Under the same Item No. 4 \$650,000 to facilitate emergency repairs to the Ministry's generator, could the Honourable Minister share with the House how old this generator is?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The last time I went downstairs at the back of the Ministry to visit that generator; it seemed to me that it needs to be replaced. But the cost of a new generator could be somewhat exorbitant. So what we do, we tried to weigh the cost of purchasing a new generator against that of servicing the current generator, and try our best to see how much more we can get out of the generator as it presently is at this point in time. I am sure the Honourable Member would agree that a Ministry such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, cannot be left without any power at any point in time whatsoever, being the nerve centre in respect to the security issues in the country. So in the meantime, while we are considering to import a new generator, we have to at the same time, keep the current one going, because we do not want to throw out the baby with the bathwater, so to speak.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A Supplementary question -

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Could the Honourable Minister say what would be the cost, because he has obviously inquired, he said he weighed one against the other. Could he share with us what would be the cost, if we were to approve a new generator?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: Well I have to approve it first before you approve it, but I have not actually looked at any cost as yet. The Permanent Secretary is in the process of ... *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Allow the Minister, please.

Hon Clement J Rohee: We have to have at least three quotations according to the procedure. And we are currently looking at least two so far. No decision has been made as yet with respect to the purchase of a new generator. We do not want to commit the Ministry of Finance to purchasing anything unless we're aware that resources are available.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir on the exact question.

The Chairman: Unless Mr. Franklin gives way.

Mr Overall N Franklin: The exact question too, I will defer.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: You go ahead.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Honourable Minister, could you explain what size the generator is? Because it makes more sense to know what size of generator, and to know you are spending \$650,000 to repair something; it will give us a little more understanding as to what we are really spending on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, I am not a technical person; I am a humble politician and a servant of the Government. I rely on the technicians who come to examine the generator to provide us with all those details. They go to the Ministry of Finance and then they discuss it, and then the Ministry of Finance makes the decision whether they could at any point in time make the resources available.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Well that is the idea, Mr. Minister, because I know that you are a politician and not a technician, it is important to have those questions clarified, because you will be spending multiples of \$650,000 per year, I think this question is valid, so that we can make sense out of this repair costs.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, in the case where he has two quotations, could he share with this Honourable

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House, either of the two or the average, if he does not want for security reasons, he cannot tell us what ... no, because you see, if we know that a new generator is \$5 million, it may make more sense as the Honourable Member said, because we have already approved \$2.5 million, now they are coming for \$650,000, that is \$3,150,000 for the year. So what would be the cost? The Minister must, he does not have to be a technical person to read the quotation Sir.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: I was not anticipating my being asked for quotations, Mr. Chairman or else I would have certainly walked with them. I am not in the habit of walking around with quotations. I walk around with political quotations if needs be.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - Chart of Account 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - \$650,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 5 - AGENCY 51 -MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 512 - GUYANA POLICE FORCE - Chart of Account 6133

Question is proposed that the sum of \$90,000 for

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Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme
512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6133 -
Benefits and Allowances - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Is it in relation to all three items,
Honourable Member Mrs. Backer?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Chart
of Account 6133, which is the first item, let me draw a
line, Sir, to make sure, yes. \$90,000 to meet
expenditure incurred on special operations. Sir, it is not
a big amount, and I am by no means questioning the
amount, it looks a bit low to me, but does this small
figure in any way include allowances paid to police,
when they are in-line and working on a continuous
basis?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home
Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, the
Honourable Member may have been misled by the
term *special operations*, but the special operations in
this case means outfitting the police engaged in a
special operation, and the special operations does not
necessarily mean a crime-fighting operation. It
includes outfitting the police ranks with shirt-jacks for
the purpose of CARIFESTA.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Programme

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512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6133
- Benefits and Allowances - \$90,000 agreed to and
ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 5 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME
AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 512 - GUYANA
POLICE FORCE - Chart of Account 6231

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,000,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Again, I want just to be able to deal with another matter later, whether the \$30,000,000, fuel and lubricants, to meet expenditures incurred on special operations, whether this \$30,000,000 is also related to special operations for CARIFESTA?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that is yes, During CARIFESTA period, the police and the security forces mounted a high level

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operation, which resulted in the taking out of Fineman and his gang, and I think it was ... *[Laughter]*... yes, it was during CARIFESTA.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$30,000,000 - stands part of the Estimates

ITEM 5 - AGENCY 51 -MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 512 - GUYANA POLICE FORCE - Chart of Account 6261

Question is proposed that the sum of \$42,000,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence.

The Chairman: Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes sir. Is the minister confirming that this \$42,000,000 to meet additional expenditure for the deployment of ranks and special operations, is also the costs of CARIFESTA?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

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Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, this is also associated with CARIFESTA, and this is associated with the question which the Honourable Member Mrs Backer had asked: this had to do with in-linement of the ranks during the CARIFESTA period.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - \$42,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 6 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 513 - GUYANA PRISON SERVICE - Chart of Account 6231

Question is proposed that the sum of \$14,000,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. The sum of \$14,000,000 Sir, fuel and lubricants, and the remarks says, to facilitate meeting of costs related to expanded special operations activities, and the introduction of and use of industrial gas stoves. How

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many stoves, ... No, no, no, let us get to the bigger question first. What portion, or what percentage of that \$14,000,000 was spent on the purchase of the industrial gas stoves?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: I cannot say specifically, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I know usually when it is budget, they have their people sitting next to them who can answer those questions. I do not know, Sir, they obviously anticipated indeed that we would have boycotted the session, so that they made no preparation whatsoever. Sir, on that very question, could the Hon Minister share with this House what was the expanded special operation activity that the Guyana Prison Service was involved in?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, it had to do specifically with moving prisoners around at the various locations during that period.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Which period, Honourable Minister?

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The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: There is a periodization, through which you move prisoners around.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: That is security. May I ask the

Hon Minister, whether these special operations are related to the arrests and imprisonment of those young men who were picked up in the various villages just before CARIFESTA and shunted to all those police stations, and locked up for three days?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, I do not think this supplementary provision has anything to do with what the Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin is ... but this is strictly to move prisoners around from various locations to another; increasing the police patrols around the prison, and ensuring that prisoners are intact, and all the security measures are in place in order to ensure that residents of Georgetown and all the other environs sleep in peace and tranquility.

Mrs Deborah J Backer. Sir, is the Honourable

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Minister saying that this \$14,000,000 part of it was used for the guarding of the prison by police, that part of that \$14,000,000 was used to do that? That is what he just said; that makes no sense. For them to patrol, it comes under the head of ... Is he then saying, Sir that the Guyana Prison Service pays the Guyana Police Force for patrolling around the prison? Is that what he is saying? Could he confirm or deny that?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs. You sound like a journalist, Honourable Member

Hon Clement J Rohee: I would just not wish to confirm nor deny that. The fact is, the Guyana Prison Service conducts its patrols around the prison. From time to time, the Joint Services, of which the Guyana Prison Service is part, Police, and Army, they conduct patrols around the prison as well From time to time, they could be using various vehicles such as Prison Service vehicles. *[Interruption: 'Around the Prison?']*
Around the prison, yes, 24/7

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Bernard De Santos. Were you about to ask a question, Honourable Member?

Mr Bernard C De Santos: No sir!

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme

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513 - Guyana Prison Service - Chart of Account
6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$14,000,000 - agreed
to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 6 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME
AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 513 - GUYAN PRISON
SERVICE - Chart of Account 6292

Question is proposed that the sum of \$31,000,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Oh, the Honourable Member Mr. Norton.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Chairman, under section 6292, could the Honourable Minister tell us what is the average cost of feeding a prisoner? So that he could give us an insight as to what is in here?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that number with me, but if you check the Hansard, I think in two budget debates, I had presented that. *[Interruption: Now, there is increased cost.]* Yes, I know, it is increased costs. But what I am saying, Mr.

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Chairman, the Honourable Member asked how much does it cost to feed a prisoner today. I am not aware of how much it costs to feed a prisoner today. But if you check the Hansard, you will find a cost attached to last year's or this year's budget. You will find a cost attached to this year's budget. Now if Mr. Norton is aware of the economic factors, of course he can do the necessary calculations to see on the basis of inflation, how much that cost would be.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - \$31,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 7 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 515 - GUYANA FIRE SERVICE - Chart of Account 6231

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,780,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants, we see a request is now being sought for an

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additional \$5.78 million to cover shortfalls due finances utilized during the involvement of joint ...oh, for inlinement for Joint Service Operations. Could the Honourable Minister indicate what period the Guyana Fire Service was inline for? What period?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The Guyana Fire Service is part of the Joint Services, Whenever the Joint Services ... *[Interruption: 'I don't know that.']* Yes, the Guyana Fire Services is part of the Joint Services, and whenever the Joint Services are in line, it means that in this regard the Guyana Fire Service is in line as well.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Thank you, sir. Supplementary question, the same heading, both items Whether the minister will confirm that these inlinement duties were associated with the inlinement duties which he indicated earlier that the Guyana Prison Service and the Police Force were involved in earlier, in other words, all surrounding CARIFESTA.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

Hon Clement J Rohee: The answer to that, Mr. Chairman, is in the affirmative.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 -Guyana Fire Service - Chart of Account 6231 -

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Fuel and Lubricants - \$5,780,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 7 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 515 - GUYANA FIRE SERVICE - Chart of Account 6261

Question is proposed that the sum of \$572,600 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - \$572, 600 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6221

The Chairman: I will take questions on any one of the items.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$656,462 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -

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Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6221 -
Drugs and Medical Supplies - stands part of the
Estimates.

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - \$656,462 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the
Estimates**

**ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6223**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,307,470 for
Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -
Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6223 -
Office Materials and Supplies - stands part of the
Estimates.

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6223 - Office Materials and Supplies - \$656,462 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the
Estimates**

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE

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FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6231**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$78,200,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$78,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

**ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6242**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,641,756 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of buildings - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - and the Legend said it is \$1.6 million, to meet expenditure related to special operations throughout

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Guyana. Could the Honourable Minister, what maintenance of buildings was needed to carry out the special operations?

Hon Jennifer I Webster: Mr. Chairman, in response to the question asked by the Honourable Member, there was an emergency need to repair the arms stores at Tacama, and that is the cost.

Agency 8 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - \$1,641,756 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6243

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,161,934 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies - \$2,161,934 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6255

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,221,854 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6255 - Maintenance and Other Infrastructure - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6255 - Maintenance and Other infrastructure - \$5,221,854 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 62 61

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 1,930,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters, Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme

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531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - \$1,930,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the
Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6262

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,412,670 for
Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -
Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6262 -
Overseas Conferences and Official Visits -
stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6262 - Overseas Conferences and Official Visits - \$
1,412,670 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of
the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6263

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 406,568 for
Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -

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**Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6263 -
Postage Telex and Cablegrams -
stands part of the Estimates**

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6263 - Postage Telex and Cablegrams - \$406,568 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the
Estimates**

**ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6265**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$229,931,729 for
Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -
Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6265 - Other
Transport, Travel and Postage -
stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6265 - Other Transport, Travel and Postage -
\$229,931,729 - agreed to and ordered to stand part
of the Estimates**

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE

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FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6271

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,598,003 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters, Chart of Account 6271 - Telephone Charges - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6271 - Telephone Charges - \$3,598,003 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6283

Question is proposed that the sum of \$676,752 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6283 - Cleaning and Extermination Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6283 - Cleaning and Extermination Services - \$676,752 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6284

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,246,976 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters, Chart of Account 6284 - Other - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6284 - Other - \$3,246,976 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6292

Question is proposed that the sum of \$116,090,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary -

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\$116,090,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part
of the Estimates

ITEM 8 - AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE
FORCE, PROGRAMME 531 - DEFENCE
HEADQUARTERS - Chart of Account 6294

Question is proposed that the sum of \$227,640,000 for
Agency 53 -Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 -
Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account 6294 - Other
- stands part of the Estimates

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme
531 - Defence Headquarters - Chart of Account
6294 - Other - \$227,640,000 - agreed to and
ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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ITEM 9 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 711 - REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE - Chart of
Account 6211

Question is proposed that the sum of \$536,712 for
Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 711 - Regional
Administration and Finance - Chart of Account 6211 -

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Expenses Specific to Agency - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: This Head is a very small sum, but it is to pay for services utilized by the Regional Administration. Are these outstanding accounts related to expenses in 2008 or before? And these services are utilised by persons in the Region or by persons visiting the Region?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this additional sum is for the expenses incurred by RDC Members at meetings at the guesthouse.

Agency 71 - REGION 1: Programme 711 - Regional Administration and Finance - Chart of Account 6211 - Expenses Specific to Agency - \$536,712 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 10 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: PROGRAMME 712 - PUBLIC WORKS - Chart of Account 6242

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,151,796 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 712 - Public Works - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 712 - Public Works - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - \$2,151,796 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 11 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 713 - EDUCATION DELIVERY -
Chart of Account 6224**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$699,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6224 -Print and Non-Print Materials - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6224 -Print and Non-Print Materials - \$699,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 11 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 713 - EDUCATION DELIVERY -
Chart of Account 6231**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$575,157 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$575,157 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 11 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 713 - EDUCATION DELIVERY -
Chart of Account 6242**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$835,600 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6242 -Maintenance of Buildings - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6242 -Maintenance of Buildings - \$835,8600 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 11 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 713 - EDUCATION DELIVERY -
Chart of Account 6243**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 30 OCTOBER 2008

Question is proposed that the sum of \$466,015 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Materials - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Fernandes.

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, Chart of Account 6243 .. can we use all together ?.

The Chairman: Yes, any item you can ask about

Mr. Desmond Fernandes: Chart of Accounts 6292.and 6243

The Chairman: Ask the question on one at a time.

Mr. Desmond Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know whether this amount is adequate, because as I look around the region, you find a number of persons being owed outstanding amounts.

The Chairman: Which item?

Mr. Desmond Fernandes: Chart of Account 6243.- Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies

The Chairman: You' would like to know if ...

Mr Desmond Fernandes: There are secondary schools, dormitory schools in the area. I would like to

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know whether this amount of the money is adequate to offset expenses, because a number of business people are owed outstanding amount of money.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon Kellawan Lall: The answer is yes. This amount is adequate to offset all the expenses incurred so far.

I am sorry I did not answer the first question asked by Mr Corbin. These expenses were occurred last year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss. Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr. Chairman, Char of Account 6243, for \$466,015, to pay outstanding amounts. Mr. Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say how many schools were recipients of the cleaning supplies for the year and what amount was granted in each case?

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr. Chairman, I do know that this outstanding amount that is being asked for at the moment, which is the issue here, according to the paper, three schools:

- The Blackwater School;
- The Mabaruma School; and

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- The Arukamai Nursery School.

As regards to what amount was given to each school in the Region, I don't have that information, but I suppose at the beginning of the year, when we get the budget, that information is there...

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Materials - \$466,015 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 11 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 713 - EDUCATION DELIVERY -
Chart of Account 6292**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,165,450 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - stands part of the Estimates.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, I asked a similar question - Chart of Account 6292, what is the average cost per person, in the Region?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr. Chairman, I do not have this

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information for the average cost per person, but I want to say that I do not know this information is fully here. This additional cost of \$1.1 million is for the increased costs incurred for dietary supplements at:

- The Santa Rosa dorm;
- The Port Kaituma dorm; and
- The Northwest Secondary dorm.

The Chairman: The Honourble Member Mr. Norton

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Speaker, I wish to ask Honourable Member if he is prepared to provide this House with the information, remembering that he promised at budget time to present me with it

Hon Kellawan Lall: Yes, Mr Chairman.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 713 - Education Delivery - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - \$1,165,450 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ITEM 12 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1:
PROGRAMME 714 - HEALTH SERVICES -
Chart of Account 6242**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,550 for

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Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - \$16,550 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 12 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: PROGRAMME 714 - HEALTH SERVICES - Chart of Account 6243

Question is proposed that the sum of \$329,960 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies - \$329.960 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 12 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: PROGRAMME 714 - HEALTH SERVICES - Chart of Account 6261

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 742,140 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health

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Services - Chart of Account 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6261 Local Travel and Subsistence - \$742,140 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 12 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: PROGRAMME 714 - HEALTH SERVICES - Chart of Account 6292

Question is proposed that the sum of \$980,930 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6242 - Dietary - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71- Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6292 - Dietary - \$ 980,930 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 12 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: PROGRAMME 714 - HEALTH SERVICES - Chart of Account 6302

Question is proposed that the sum of \$371,050 for

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Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71 - Region 1: Programme 714 - Health Services - Chart of Account 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - \$371,050 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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SECTION 'B' CAPITAL ESTIMATES

ITEM 1 - AGENCY 03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 4502600

Question is proposed that the sum of \$298,208,232 for Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance - Project Code 4502600 - CARICOM Development Fund - Stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Norton.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, Guyana's initial contribution to the CARICOM Development Fund, could the Honourable Minister tell me if this was prepared in keeping with Article 158 of the Treaty

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of Chagauramas on the issue?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Finance

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr Speaker, I am sure the Honourable Member is aware that the Regional Development Fund is established under Article 158 of the Revised Treaty?

Mr Aubrey C Norton: That being the case Mr. Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say if in keeping with that, there is a private sector component, because the Treaty provides for the private sector to contribute, once there is no discriminatory measure set by a Member State..

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Chairman, at this point in time, as far as I am informed, the contributions are by Member States and development partners.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, is there any intention of the part of this Government to mobilize the private sector in keeping with this, and if that is the case, when would it be done? And what do you project you will get from the private sector?

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Chairman, the task of mobilizing contributions to the Regional Development fund is one that is certainly been engaging the attention of CARICOM at every level, including ministerial fora such as COFA, and indeed CARICOM Heads. That

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work is ongoing. That is the issue of mobilizing resources, contributions to the Regional Development Fund. But for reasons that I would think would be reasonably obvious, I would not be in a position to make any projections with respect to what we might be able to mobilize, and by when, and indeed from whom.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, could the Honourable Minister state what so far has been the contribution of other CARICOM States to this fund?

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Chairman, the contributions that have been received thus far are as follows, and if the Honourable Member would be interested in dates, I will provide them too.

- Dominica contributed on the 13th of March 2008, US \$74,074.07
- Trinidad and Tobago contributed on 18th March 2008, US \$37,070,000
- St. Kitts and Nevis contributed on the 9th of May 2008 US \$660,000
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines contributed on 9th May 2008, US \$679,950
- St. Lucia contributed on the 16th of May 2008,

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US \$980,000

- Barbados contributed on the 12th of June 2008, US \$5,012,285
- Jamaica contributed on the 26th of June 2008, US \$8.13 million
- Belize contributed on the 19th of August US\$1.26 million
- Guyana contributed on the 22nd of August 2008 US \$1.4500486 million that is, US\$1,450,004.86 on the 22nd of August 2008

That is the information as at the date that Guyana made its contribution. I do not have information on subsequent contributions, but I am sure It can be obtained quite easily.

Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance - Capital Expenditure - Project code 4502600 - CARICOM Development Fund - \$298,208,232 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 2 - AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - PROJECT CODE 1100100

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$32,508,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1100100 - Demerara Harbour Bridge - stands of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Let me just explain why I am asking the question, the Estimates of Expenditure for Capital Expenditure for this Head. In 2006, we had \$80,000 provided. In 2007 the budget was \$90,000. The latest estimate for 2007 was \$645 million. Am I right? Yes, \$645 million. What I want to ask the Minister, with 2006 putting us at 80, 2007, 90, with the latest estimates at 645, how it is in 2008, what we saw was zero? Whether there was no plan to deal with this Harbour Bridge that he comes at this late hour for \$32 million? So it seems to me, could he explain why no money was approved, and what exactly this will do to in relation to the charge given by the President not so long ago?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Public Works and Hydraulics.

Hon BH Robeson Benn.: Mr. Chairman, the amount specifically relates to the anchor chains for the Harbour Bridge. We have been doing a detailed

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engineering inspection and assessment of the bridge and based on the determination of its condition, and the fact that we need to keep this bridge going for another seven years or maybe ten years on the outside, this is the type of expenditure that is needed to be made now, given the condition of the bridge.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1100100 - Demerara Harbour Bridge - \$32,508,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 3 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 2600100

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,150,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2600100 - Equipment - Police - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Members Mrs. Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. \$16,150,000 for the purchase of crash barriers and bulletproof vests - Could the Hon Minister say what portion of that money was spent for crash barriers, and

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then of course, I will then know how much was spent on the bullet proof vests. I do not want to know about the bulletproof vests, I want to know about the crash barriers.

Hon Clement J Rohee: I do not have that specific figure, but I think I know why the Honourable Member is more interested in the crash barriers. Well you know, there are lots of protests have been going on within the past couple of months, and the barriers that we have are now inadequate, they need to be reinforced, and bearing in mind that we have not had a replenishment of barriers in recent times; it is obvious that with the resurgence within recent months of protests, we obviously have to equip the police better with barriers in order to deal with any untoward activity.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr. Chairman, did the Minister take into consideration, having planned that these crash barriers could be constructed by the Guyana Prison inmates of the Guyana Prison Service? Is there any consideration for that - to save money?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The Guyana Prison Service has recently employed a person, who I understand is trained to do welding and fabrication, and that is an idea that we may want to consider. But recognizing the strength and the force that is sometimes exerted on these barriers, and the numbers sometimes that are

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used against these barriers, they have to make sure that they are properly reinforced material that is used to deal with these matters.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister share with this Honourable House where the crash barriers were purchased from - which country?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I cannot disclose this at this point in time.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Franklin

Mr Everall N Franklin: Just a follow-up, is the Honourable Minister saying that indeed these crash barriers were imported?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: That may very well be the case, Mr. Chairman.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr. Chairman, could the Honourable Minister tell this House if in his opinion, it would not be better if these barriers were constructed here in Guyana by Guyanese workers?

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The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr. Chairman, I think it is only logical to conclude that if of course we could produce these barriers here in Guyana of the quality that we would like to have produced, to give Guyanese employment and our fabricators more jobs and so on, obviously we would want to do it. But I again insist that we have to make sure the quality is such that when these large numbers of protesters come down the road, they refuse to listen to the police, they refuse to listen to the entreaties of the police, even though we use loudspeakers and so on, obviously we have to make sure that these barriers are of such a quality that they could deal with such matters.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr. Chairman, could I just remind the Minister that we construct ships here in Guyana. Am I to understand that we have the capability to construct ocean-going and river-going vessels, but we cannot construct barriers? You do not have to answer, Minister.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could Honourable Minister say whether the bulletproof vests purchased from an unknown country has been supplemented by items that

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the Government would have received under the Security Sector Reform Action Plan? Bulletproof vests they would, or were scheduled to receive under the Security Sector Reform Action Plan?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The country may be unknown to the Honourable Member, but it is known to me. Now, the money from the Security Reform Action Plan is grant money, and that would not be budgeted for. But this money was from the Treasury, and the Treasury's resources were used for the purchase of these materials.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Is the Honourable Minister prepared to share with this Honourable House whether the bulletproof vests that is to be given by way of grant under the Security Sector Reform Action Plan has been received by the Government to date.

Hon Clement J Rohee: I thought the Honourable Member was going to ask whether I was prepared to share a bulletproof vest with her. Mr. Chairman, I am not aware at this point in time whether any bulletproof vest were received by the Guyana Police Force or any section of the security forces. I am not aware.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: But I know, and I am telling you.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Thank you.

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Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2600100 - Equipment - Police - \$16,150,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 3 - AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 2600300

The question is proposed that the sum of \$282,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2600300 - Tools and Equipment - Fire - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2600300 - Tools and Equipment - Fire - \$282,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1202400

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,389,072 for Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202400 - Buildings - Health - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202400 - Buildings - Health -

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\$3,389,072 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1202400

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,389,072 for Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202400 - Buildings - Health - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202400 - Buildings - Health - \$3,389,072 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1202600

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,954,327 for Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202600 - Buildings - Education - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1202600 - Buildings - Education - \$1,954,327 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the

Estimates.

ITEM 4 - AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1400400

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,436,372 for Agency 71 - Region 1; Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1400400 - Roads - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Fernandes

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, Project Code 1400400 -Roads - Could the Honourable Minister say when this work was done, and where?

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr. Chairman, as indicated there these are outstanding accounts for upgrading of roads, from Wauna to Yarakita, and Santa Rosa in the Moruka area, Santa Rosa to Kwebanna, and these are final payments to the contractor.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Fernandes

Mr. Desmond Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know when this work was done in the Yarakita/Wauna area, or in the Moruka Santa Rosa area. My inspection told me that for the period no

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work was done in those areas. That is why I would like to know which part.

Hon Kellawan Lall: I did not get that question.

The Chairman: Could you repeat the question, Honourable Member?

Mr Desmond Fernandes. Yes, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister say when this work was done and which area? Whether it was in Yarakita,/Wauna or Kumaka/Santa Rosa.

Hon Kellawan Lall: This work was done last year, and it is in the Wauna/Yarakita area, I think it is Six Miles, and in the Moruka area, Santa Rosa to Kwebanna . I do not know exactly the length of the road that was done there.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1400400 - Roads - \$1,436,372 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project code 2601400

Question is proposed that the sum of \$562,860 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2601400 - Power Supply - stands part of the

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Estimates.

**Agency 71 - Region 1: Capital Expenditure -
Project Code 2601400 - Power Supply - \$562,860 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the
Estimates.**

The Chairman: Honourable Members, this completes consideration of all the items.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion Carried.

Assembly Resumed

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Speaker, I have to report that the Committee of Supply has considered and approved the proposal set out in Financial Paper No. 3 of 2008, and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in the said resolution.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion Carried

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The Speaker: Honourable Members, we can now proceed to consider the next paper

**ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL
PARER NO. 4/2008**

BE IT RESOLVED:

*That this Assembly
approves of the proposals set
out in Financial Paper No.
4/2008 - Supplementary
Estimates (Current and
Capital) totaling
\$984,061,416 for the period
ending 2008-12-31.*

Assembly in Committee of Supply

The House will resolve itself into committee to consider financial paper No. 4 2008.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon Dr Ashni Singh: Mr. Chairman, in accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, I signify that the Cabinet has recommended for consideration by the

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Assembly the motion for the approval of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4 of 2008, Schedule of Supplementary Provisions on Capital Estimates totaling \$984,061,416 for the period ended 31st December 2008, and I now move the motion.

The Chairman: Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Members, the motion is now moved.

Question proposed

We will proceed as usual.

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SECTION 'A' -CAPITAL ESTIMATES

ITEM 1 - AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 2601100

Question is proposed that the sum of \$40,700,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2601100 - Electrification Programme - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes, sir. The very first item shows \$40 million to meet expenditure associated with

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the relocation of squatters along the Lamaha railway embankment. I will ask two questions.

First of all, whether this figure includes proper housing, and to what extent these relocation arrangements provide for housing of those persons who were removed. I have another question, the electrification programme per se, but I just wanted to get this amount.

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14:00h

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Part II of II

Continued from Part I ... (Page 80)

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, you may know that the persons living along the Lamaha embankment there have been squatting, and they have been told from time to time that they should move, and they should look to make other arrangements, and indeed some of them had arrangements in train, and so when it became evident that there is a need for this embankment to run transmission lines between the Kingston station and Sophia, we had a number of meetings with them. And we have arranged for them to move. Each one would be receiving a house lot in some one of the existing schemes, and they would be receiving some assistance also to relocate to the assigned house lots. So this sum of money here covers the charge for the house lots, which would be waived, and also makes provisions for assistance to be rendered in relocating.

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The Chairman: Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin. Would the Honourable Prime Minister say whether the same arrangements will apply to those persons who are being rudely removed from Timehri?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am not aware of anyone being rudely removed from Timehri..

Mr Robert HO Corbin. I know it is not strictly under the head, so I would not pursue the matter.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Wisely!

Mr Robert HO Corbin: But I would have thought that a bulldozer bulldozing a house is rudely removed, like the *roughing up*. Your Honour, on this very head if one looks at the project profile, because, under the Electrification Program, I think the reference number is 14, and I would like some guidance of the Minister, because the project description speaks of extending the distribution network to the unserved areas, Onderneeming, Best, Lusignan Area B, Experiment Track Limliar Village, Four Mile Scheme in Amelia's Ward, and then the next one talks about Port Kaituma, Kato, Orealla and Siparuta, replacing of defective meters, on so on. So I will ask the first question, how this got into this area, under what basis this

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expenditure has been added to this project profile? I do not see here anything here, so I stand to be guided by him, as to how the fund is in this project which has to do with rural electrification in these areas.

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, if the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is looking at the same page as I am, I believe he would have before him Project Profile No. 14, and he would note that item 5 under box 7, "Description of Projects", says provision for upgrading of transmission and distribution networks. That, Mr. Chairman, is a direct reference to the fact that a new and upgraded 69KV link is being constructed from Kingston to Sophia for the purposes of exactly as it is described here: to upgrade the transmission and distribution network, but also Mr Chairman, as part of a larger project that Government is financing specifically, Mr Chairman, I am sure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would have read, and indeed it was mentioned extensively during the budget debate, that Government is providing amounts that will total over the course of two years, US \$31 million, to finance the acquisition of a new 20 MW power plant at Kingston, which will necessitate for the purposes of integrating the power that will be generated by that plant which would necessitate a new and upgraded 69KV link from Kingston to Sophia.

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And further, Mr Chairman, of course, is our support to GPL, and there are other elements, there are other areas in which Government is of course providing extensive support to GPL, which I am sure the Honourable Member is aware of.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Norton.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Prime Minister had indicated they allocated house lots. If we acknowledge that this is the period when the Government is taking about grow more food, and if we also acknowledge that the people on that embankment are planting, could he say whether it is just a house lot, or if they cater for them to continue to contribute to production in Guyana?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: It is a house lot that they are getting, and I think other arrangements may be made depending on their circumstances; they have a whole range of circumstances.

Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 2601100 - Electrification Programme - \$40,700,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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ITEM 2 - AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1100100

Question is proposed that the sum of \$650,000,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1100100 - Demerara Harbour Bridge - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin

Mr. Robert HO Corbin: I will now elaborate to the question I raised in the previous paper. They have here \$650,000,000, provisions for rehabilitative work to the Demerara Harbour Bridge. And again I look at the voted provisions, and I see zero. Is the Honourable Minister saying that they came to this Parliament in budget time, and did not cater a cent for the maintenance of the Harbour Bridge so that we have \$650,000,000 supplementary, when this should have been part of the original allocation? Could the minister tell us something? The President was probably right to scold.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, I really do

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not want to repeat myself with respect to the need, to assure the integrity of this bridge or the next seven to ten years. The Bridge, as I have said that we have made detailed investigations and assessment of the condition of the bridge, against this horizon of seven to ten years. There were some issues with respect to the deck plating material which was being used, sourced locally, because the original specified material could not have been assessed overseas in the quantities which would have been considered necessary, and also too, we were on an ongoing basis making deck plates at the Demerara Harbour Bridge, that was a constant activity. I think it was well ventilated in the press, that there has been excessive wear and destruction of the deck plating on the bridge, because of overloading and speeding on the bridge, greater dynamic forces are being carried on the bridge. In view of our assessment, in view of the fact that we put in place improved engineering management at the bridge, this is the sum that is considered necessary to address these problems now.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I gather that the Minister is telling us that the speeding and heavy use of the bridge started in March of this year. If that the point he is making?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, I think I did say too publicly in the press, and I am simply restating

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it hear, that we have had an explosion of housing construction on the West Bank and on the West Coast of Demerara. And the amount of trucks, and the amount of tonnage being carried over that bridge now, and the rate at which it is being carried over, is in excess of the specification of the material which is being used. And that is indeed the reason why we need to address the matter

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs. Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer : Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would be kind enough to inform this House that when he looked at the bridge, when his technical people carried out an assessment of the bridge pre-budget too again, he was satisfied that no maintenance, absolutely no maintenance, would have been necessary for the entire duration of 2008, and would he be man enough to say that in retrospect, would he be brave enough - Minister enough - to accept, to accept that it was obviously an oversight and bad judgment in on his part?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, it seems that the Honourable Member did not pay attention to the fact, when I said that there was ongoing maintenance being done by the Demerara Harbour Bridge Corporation. The Demerara Harbour Bridge is a Corporation by itself, these are sums being assigned by the Government as subsidies towards the Corporation.

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The Corporation by itself is spending money on a daily basis with respect to the maintenance of the bridge.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Franklin.

Mr Overall N Franklin: Could the Honourable Minister say what contribution is made by the bridge itself in terms of tolls? What percentage of that is actually going to the maintenance of this bridge?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, the amount in tolls, and the amount obviously that is being spent by the Harbour Bridge is not sufficient for its complete maintenance, but the specific percentage, I would not be able to give you at this time.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister say what revenue has been garnered so far this year? It may not be up to today, but at least up to the end of September, the end of the third quarter? What revenue was generated from tolls collected for the bridge in 2008?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that \$278 million has been garnered as revenue by the Demerara Harbour Bridge in tolls to date for the year.
[Applause]

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr. Franklin.

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Mr Everall N Franklin: Could we assume from that answer that all of that was spent on maintenance and operation?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, I do not know that I need to reply to the very obvious.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr. Chairman, some of us are not as intelligent as others. I am one of the dunce ones. I would like to know how much. I would like an answer.

The Chairman: Have you anything further to say, Honourable Minister?

Hon BH Robeson Benn: Mr. Chairman, I could provide the Honourable Member the exact answer some other time.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1100100 - Demerara Harbour Bridge - \$650,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

ITEM 2 - AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 1201800

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$25,000,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1201800 - Government Buildings - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 1201800 - \$25,000,000 - Government Buildings - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 3 - AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 4502200

Question is proposed that the sum of \$109,007,046 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education - Capital Expenditure - project Code 4502200 - Education for all fast Track Initiative - EFA-FTI - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally.

Miss Amna Ally: Mr. Chairman, Item 3, in the remarks column, it says, to provide additional inflows. I wonder if the Minister can provide a breakdown for this additional expenditure for the EFA-FTI Programme, and state what specific areas will benefit.

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Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Yes, this is additional inflows for the EFA-FTI Programme for Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 and the expenses would be for the purchase of curriculum material, books, learning materials for all primary schools and learning resource centers in the hinterland and also for the School Feeding Programme. We have a school feeding programme and it will now take in nineteen new schools in these regions here, for school feeding programme, and nearly 3,000 children would benefit from that.

Miss Amna Ally: Supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister say how many schools presently benefit from the school feeding programme?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: We have about seventy-five schools now benefitting from that programme.

Miss Amna Ally: Seventy-five out of how many, Honourable Minister?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: I do not have that specific information

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education - Capital Expenditure - project Code 4502200 - Education for all fast Track Initiative - EFA-FTI - \$109,007,046 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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ITEM 4 - AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code
4400300

Question is proposed that the sum of \$20,000,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 4400300 - Nutrition Programme - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health - Capital Expenditure - Project Code 4400300 - Nutrition Programme - \$20,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

ITEM 5 - AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Project Code 12008800

Question is proposed that the sum of \$13,000,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Capital Expenditure - Project Code 12008800 - Buildings - Administration - stands part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Elliott

Mr Ernest B Elliott: Mr. Chairman, Could the Honourable Minister state if this provision of \$13,000,000 will be adequate to complete the administration building as it stands right now? For the past two months, little or no work was done on that

building.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and **Regional Development**

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that this money, will be sufficient to complete the building.

Mr Ernest B Elliott: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister say what would be the new date of completion of that building?

Hon Kellawan Lall: In the new year it will be completed.

The Chairman. The Honourable Member Mr Robert Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin. My question to the Minister, is whether the Minister is reasonably satisfied that the building being constructed with the high-tech, is one which is suitable for the headquarters of a Regional Administration of a region? It looks like a bond.

Hon Kellawan Lall: Mr. Chairman, I think that this is the first and only building that is specifically built for a regional administration. I have been involved, I have spoken to all those people who have been involved in the designing and so forth, and they have all told me that this will be perhaps one of the most comfortable of all the regional, and is designed with an eye on what

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has been happening in Parliament, where Members - both opposition members and the members who have majority in the council there - they will have their special rooms to caucus and all these different things. The Regional Chairman, who is an Executive Member of the opposition, of the PNCR-1G, will have his special room. The facilities there will be quite adequate, and I have been advised, and from what I have been told, it will be very comfortable with parking space. Mr. Chairman, I am talking here of utility, I do not know much of the aesthetics of the building. I am more concerned of the practicability of the building, and it will be the best building in terms of its utility for any Regional Administration.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Capital Expenditure - Project Code 12008800 - Buildings - Administration - \$13,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Honourable Members, this completes consideration of all the items.

Question put and agreed to

Motion carried

Assembly resumed

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance

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Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report that the Committee on Supply has approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4 of 2008, and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in the said resolution.

Question put and agreed to

Motion carried

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS Nos. 13
(a) and 54**

The Speaker: The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications; you have to move the suspension of standing orders..

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes sir. Mr. Speaker, with your leave, I move that Standing Orders Nos. 13 (a) and 54 be suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2008), Bill No. 23 of 2008 to be introduced at this stage.

Question put and agreed to

Motion Carried

BILL - First, Second and Third Readings

**ITEM 3 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRAITION
(NO. 2 FOR 2008) BILL 2008 - Bill No. 23/2008
published on 27 October 2008**

A Bill intituled, and Act to provide for the issued from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December 2008, Estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes in conformity with the Constitution.

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with article 171 (2) of the Constitution, I signify that Cabinet has recommended that Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2008) Bill No. 23 of 2008, for consideration by the National Assembly, and I now present the Bill to the Assembly and move that the Bill be read for the first time.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried

Bill read the First time.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Finance

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr Speaker, I move that the Supplementary Appropriation (No, 2 For 2008) Bill 2008 - Bill No. 23/2008 be read a Second time.

Question put and agreed to

Motion carried.

Bill read the Second time

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon Dr Ashni K Singh: Mr Speaker, I move that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2 For 2008) Bill 2008 - Bill No. 23/2008 be read for the Third time and passed as printed.

Question put and agreed to

Motion carried.

Bill read the Third time and passed as printed.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, it is now ten to four and I think this is an appropriate time to take the suspension and we will resume in one hour to consider

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the Motion on the Order Paper. Is that agreeable? Just
one minute. *[Pause]*

(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

**ACCESS TO LOCAL AND EXTERNAL
TELEVISION CHANNELS, OTHER THAN NCN
CHANNELS AT LINDEN**

*WHEREAS Article 146 (1) of the
Constitution of the Republic of Guyana
provides for the protection of
fundamental rights and freedoms of
citizens and is the supreme law of the
land and direct;*

*“Except with his own consent,
no person shall be hindered in
the enjoyment of his freedom
of expression that is to say,
freedom to hold opinions
without interference, freedom
to receive ideas and
information without
interference, freedom to*

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*communicate ideas and
information without
interference and freedom
from interference with is
correspondence".;*

*AND WHEREAS the people of
Linden and Wismar have expressed to
the leadership of the Alliance For
Change their frustration and anger at
being denied the right to access local
and external television channels other
than NCN Channels 11 and 8 operated
by the State,*

BE IT RESOLVED:

*That this National
Assembly endorses the
fundamental rights of these
citizens to receive ideas and
information without
interference via television
media other than those
which are provided by NCN;*

**AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:**

That this National

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Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana and its National Frequency Management Unit to permit operators of private television channels in Guyana the right to relay and beam their channels in Linden and Wismar without having to attain additional licenses and pay additional fees;

The Clerk has been advised, may I amend that, Mr Robert Corbin, the Clerk has been advised by the Member who moved this motion, Mrs. Holder, that they will not be attending Parliament today, and they will not be proceeding with the motion. No, until the Government decides to hold a sitting on a Wednesday. That is what he has said, but the Motion is on the Order Paper, Honourable Members.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: May I then ask, your Honour, on behalf of Mrs. Holder, that the Motion formally be deferred hopefully to the next sitting, which will be a Members' day.

The Speaker: Honourable Member, I have to put the Motion; can I have a seconder Please?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I second the Motion.

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Question -

That the Motion be deferred

Question put

The Speaker: Well I have heard a lot of ayes and two noes

Honourable Prime Minister, are you voting against the motion? Is the Government voting against a motion? I would like it to be clarified.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Government is abstaining, Sir.

The Speaker: Mr Robert Corbin's Motion is **carried**.

Mrs. Holder's Motion is **deferred**.

The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House be adjourned to a date to be named.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the House is so adjourned. Thank you very much.

Adjourned According At 15:55H