

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 71ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2017) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.,
ON THURSDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2017,
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

*Hon Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (36)

(i) A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (36)

First Vice-President and Prime Minister (1)

+ Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., First Vice-President and Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (3)

+ Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs

+Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

+*Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+ Hon. Basil Williams, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (13)

+ Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

+ Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Minister of State

+ Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

/...2

+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities
- + Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion
- + Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
- + Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Minister of Public Health
- + Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., Minister of Public Infrastructure
- + Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Minister of Public Telecommunications
- +*Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship
- + Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P., Minister of Business
- +Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Ministers (9)

*Hon. Keith Scott, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister within the Ministry of Communities

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’
Affairs

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Minister within the Ministry of Finance

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Minister within the Ministry of Public Health

Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education

Hon. Valarie Patterson, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),
Minister within the Ministry of Communities

/...3

+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

3.

Other Members (9)

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P.

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomereroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) People’s Progressive Party (32)

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

4.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P.

Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Ms. Gillian R. Burton-Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

Ms. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No.3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P.

Officers (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.02 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. After Recess Greetings

“Honourable Members, I welcome you back in the Assembly and I do hope you all had a good recess”.

2. Address by His Excellency the President, David A. Granger, M.S.S

The Speaker informed Members that His Excellency the President, David A. Granger, M.S.S., would address the National Assembly during the course of that Sitting.

3. Leave

“Honourable Members, leave has been granted to Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P., for today’s Sitting.”

4. Death of former Members of Parliament - Mr. Mooneer Ahamad Khan and Mr. Simon Hilton Ng-See-Quan

- (i) “Honourable Members, I was informed of the death of Mr. Mooneer Ahmad Khan, a former Member of Parliament, who died on the 14th September, 2017, in the United States of America. He was 87 years having been born on the 15th December, 1930.

Mr. Khan came from the People's Progressive Party. From 1961 to 1964, the Chamber was called the Legislative Assembly and Senate. Elections were held on 21st August, 1961. Mr. Khan became a Member of the Senate from 5th October, 1961 to 24th September, 1964.

From 1964 to 1966 the Chamber was called the House of Assembly. Mr. Khan was also a Member of the House of Assembly in that period.

From 1966 to 1968 the Chamber was called the National Assembly of the First Parliament. Elections were held for the first time under the system of proportional representation.

Mr. Khan became a Member of the National Assembly of the first Parliament of Guyana on the 9th July, 1965. He served until 4th November, 1968. Mr. Khan ceased to be a Parliamentarian from 5th November, 1968”.

- (ii) “Honourable Members, I was also informed of the death of Mr. Simon Hilton Ng-See-Quan, a former Member of Parliament, who died on the 21st October, 2017, after a brief illness at the Diamond Diagnostic Centre in the Emergency Unit. He was 79 years old having born on the 2nd February, 1938. Mr. Ng-See-Quan came from the People's National Congress.

Elections were held on the 5th October, 1992. The Sixth Parliament commenced when the National Assembly first met on 17th December, 1992. Mr. Ng-See-Quan first became an ordinary Member of Parliament in the Sixth Parliament on the 24th November, 1992.

Mr. Ng-See-Quan worked from that date continuously until the Sixth Parliament was dissolved on the 29th October, 1997. Mr. Ng-See-Quan ceased to be a Parliamentarian from 28th October, 1997.

7.

Minute of Silence

A minute of silence was observed to mark respect for the late Mr. Mooneer Ahmad Khan and Mr. Simon Hilton Ng-See-Quan.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

(i) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries/Departments/Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2016, Volumes I and II.

(Circulated)

(ii) Report of the Auditor General on the construction of the New Access Road to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

(Circulated)

(iii) Special Report on the Public Procurement Commission's investigation into the procurement of Emergency Drugs by the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

(Circulated)

(iv) The Report of the Presidential Commission Inquiring into the conditions of Veterans from the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana People's Militia and the Guyana National Service.

(Circulated)

(v) Report of the Commission of Inquiry Appointed to Inquire into Persons, Places, Time, Circumstances and Events by and through which allegations and reports came to be made of an intention or a plan to assassinate the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

(Circulated)

8.

- (vi) Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the collapse of a Mining Pit at Rock Creek, Puruni, Region No. 7, resulting in the death of Mr. Keon Wilson.

(Circulated)

- (vii) Report of the Commission of Inquiry Appointed to Inquire into all the circumstances in which a Foreign Aircraft entered into the territory of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and was discovered on the ground near to the village of Yupukari, in the Rupununi (Upper Essequibo-Upper Takutu) Region No. 9.

(Circulated)

- (viii) The Commission of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Antonio George and Joshua George on the 7th July, 2016, at the Drop-In Centre.

(Circulated)

- (ix) Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Camp Street Prison disturbances and resultant deaths.

(Circulated)

2018 Budget Proposals Of Constitutional Agencies

- (x) Parliament Office – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$1,739,832,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

- (xi) Office of the Auditor General – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$844,422,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xii) Public and Police Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$158,709,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xiii) Teaching Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$125,158,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xiv) Guyana Elections Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$3,715,210,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xv) Supreme Court – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$2,753,863,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xvi) Public Prosecutions – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$223,882,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xvii) Office of the Ombudsman – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$64,098,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xviii) Public Service Appellate Tribunal – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$105,550,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xix) Ethnic Relations Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$142,269,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xx) Judicial Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$10,020,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxi) Indigenous People’s Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$27,372,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxii) Human Rights Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$31,113,000 for the period 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxiii) Rights of the Child Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$53,805,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxiv) Women and Gender Equality Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$45,997,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxv) Public Procurement Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$251,912,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2018.

(Circulated)

(xxvi) In accordance with section 3B(2) of the Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Act 2015 – Act No. 4 of 2015, present the recommendations and comments of the Minister of Finance on the Annual Budget Proposals of Constitutional Agencies for 2018.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 3/2017 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$2,976,237,426 for the period 2017-01-01 to 2017-12-31.

(Circulated)

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance named the 17th November, 2017, for consideration of the Financial Paper.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Subscription Agreement dated August 8, 2017 between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (as Issuer) and Republic Bank Limited (as Arranger) for the amount of US\$17,306,964.12 for the purpose of restructuring the existing debt of the Atlantic Hotel Incorporated (Marriot Guyana) which has been transferred to the books of Central Government. The Government proposes to issue up to US\$17,306,964.12 Fixed Rate Bonds maturing in 2032 to be constituted pursuant to the Trust Deed.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Trust Deed dated August 8, 2017 between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (as Issuer) and Hand in Hand Trust Corporation Incorporated (as Trustee) for the amount of US\$17,306,964.12 to assist in the restructuring of the existing debt of the Atlantic Hotel Incorporated (Marriot Guyana) and to secure such borrowing by the Trust Deed and the Schedules and by the issue and sale of Fixed Rate Bonds.

(Circulated)

12.

- (v) Paying Agency Agreement dated August 8, 2017 between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Guyana Americas Merchant Bank Incorporated (as Paying Agent) comprising up to US\$17,306,964.12 to assist in the payment of principal and interest in respect of the Bonds. The Guyana Americas Merchant Bank Incorporated shall undertake the duties and responsibilities of Registrar on behalf of the Government in respect of the Bonds.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Bond No. 001 issued on August 8, 2017 between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Republic Bank Limited for the amount of US\$17,306,964.12.

(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Social Protection:

Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 2015.

(Circulated)

- (4) The Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, on behalf of the Minister of Public Infrastructure, presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Maritime Administration Department for the years ended 31st December, 2004 and 2005.

(Circulated)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 2.25 p.m., the Sitting was suspended to receive His Excellency, the President.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.39 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT

The President entered the Chamber and took his place on the Dais.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker welcomed the President and invited him to address the Assembly.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

His Excellency the President, David A. Granger, M.S.S., addressed the Assembly, in accordance with Article 63(1) of the Constitution.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, thanked His Excellency for his address.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.37 p.m., the sitting was suspended for the departure of the President.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.07 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 17th November, 2017.

.....
HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

2nd November, 2017.

