

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 73RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2017) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.,
ON MONDAY, 27TH 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. Anna 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

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+ 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

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+ 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) (Absent)

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.

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)

(Absent)

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.

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Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.14 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) Birthday Greetings

The Speaker extended birthday greetings to Hon. Dominic Gaskin, M.P., Minister of Business and Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P., First Vice-President and Prime Minister.

(2) Death of Former Members of Parliament - Mr. Mohamed Idris Deen and Mr. Ali Baksh

“Honourable Members, I was informed of the death of Mr. Mohamed Idris Deen, a former Member of Parliament, who died on the 13th November, 2017, in Toronto Canada, after a brief illness. He was 86 years old having born on the 9th March, 1931.

Mr. Deen came from the People’s National Congress following the Elections which were held on 9th December, 1985. The Fifth Parliament commenced when the National Assembly first met on 3rd February, 1986. Mr. Deen first became a Member of the National Assembly on the 24th December, 1985. Mr. Deen worked throughout the life of the Fifth Parliament, which life was extended from time to time from 3rd February, 1986 to 10th June, 1992 and was dissolved on 29th August.

Elections were again held on 5th October, 1992. The Sixth Parliament commenced when the National Assembly first met on 17th December, 1992. During the latter part of the Sixth Parliament, Mr. Deen again became a Member of the National Assembly on 3rd March, 1994, following the resignation of Mr. Sase Narain from 8th February, 1994. On the 29th October, 1997, the Sixth Parliament was dissolved. Mr. Deen ceased to be a legislator on the 28th October, 1997.

Honourable Members, I was also informed of the death of Mr. Ali Baksh, a former Member of Parliament, who died on the 23rd November, 2017, at 5 Cotton Field Essequibo Coast, after a brief illness. He was 70 years old, having born on the 11th June, 1947. Mr. Baksh came from the People's Progressive Party/Civic.

Following the Elections which were held on the 28th November, 2011, the Tenth Parliament commenced when the National first met on 12th January, 2012. Mr. Baksh first became a Member of the National Assembly on the 5th December, 2011, and was appointed a Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Baksh worked in the Tenth Parliament until it was dissolved on the 28th February, 2015. As a Minister of the Government and with the dissolution of Parliament, Mr. Baksh continued to work until the 15th May, 2015. Mr. Baksh ceased to be a legislator on the 16th May, 2015.

Honourable Members, please let us stand and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Mohamed Idris Deen and Mr. Ali Baksh."

Minute of Silence

A minute of silence was observed as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Mohamed Idris Deen and Mr. Ali Baksh.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2018.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Agriculture:

(i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Fisheries Department for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(iii) Annual Report of the Guyana Livestock and Development Authority for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(iv) Annual Report of the Guyana Marketing Corporation for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(v) Annual Report of the Guyana Rice Development Board for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(vi) Annual Report of the Guyana School of Agriculture for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(vii) Annual Report for the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(viii) Annual Report of the Hydromet Department for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(ix) Annual Report of the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary-Agricultural Development Authority for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(x) Annual Report for the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

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(xi) Annual Report of the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

(xii) Annual Report of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board for the year 2016.

(Circulated)

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

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

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2018 at the Sitting of the National Assembly on Monday, 27th November, 2017.

(Notice Paper No.117 (M88 Govt 49) published on 2017-11-17)

The motion was put and carried.

(2) **HOURS OF SITTING**

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(1) provides for every sitting of the National Assembly to begin at 2.00 p.m. and unless previously adjourned, end at 10.00 p.m. on the same day;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(2) provides that the Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolved, the Speaker shall, at 4.00 p.m., suspend the sitting for one hour, and at 7.00 p.m. suspend the sitting for half an hour;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(3) provides for the Assembly at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debate suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs one (1) and two (2) of Standing Order No. 10;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(4) provides for the Assembly from time to time, alter, by Resolution, the hours provided by Standing Order No. 10 for the beginning and ending of a sitting.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 10(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit during the following hours during the period 4th to 8th December, 2017, to complete the debate on the 2018 Budget within the five (5) days allotted for this purpose by Standing Order No. 71(2);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 10(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit during the following hours during the period 11th to 15th December, 2017, to complete the consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2018:

- 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon – Sitting
- 12.00 noon. - 1.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 1.00 pm. - 5.00 p.m. – Sitting
- 5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. - Suspension
- 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. – Sitting
- 7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. – Sitting

(Notice Paper No. 118 (M 89 Govt 50) published on 2017-11-17)

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Ms. Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the First Vice-President and Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2018

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2018.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2018 of the total sum of \$243,375,288,000 excluding \$23,718,483,000 which is chargeable by law (See Appendix).

The Minister of Finance read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.48p.m., the First Vice- President and Prime Minister moved a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly to 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 4th December, 2017.

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HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

27th November, 2017.