

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 82ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2017) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 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 (15)

+ 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

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- + Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities
- + Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport
- + 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
- +Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Public Affairs
- +Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (7)

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

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

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

3.

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

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 – Pomeroon/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)

4.

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.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., (Suspended for four (4) Sittings, that is, from the 80th Sitting to the 83rd Sitting)

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)

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

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

5.

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 1.56 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS

False and Misleading Statements published and attributed to the Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill concerning Bulletproof Vehicles allegedly purchased by the Government of Guyana

The Minister of State made a statement denying and condemning in the strongest possible terms a false statement allegedly made by Hon. Bishop Edghill alleging that the Government of Guyana had purchased bulletproof vehicles.

6.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**Amendment to the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures of Guyana to reflect Guyana's
receipt of US\$18,000,000 from the Oil Company Exxon Mobil**

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, sought leave to move the adjournment of the National Assembly to discuss a Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance with respect to the receipt of eighteen million United States dollars (US\$18,000,000) by the Government of Guyana from the oil Company Exxon Mobil. His request was disallowed by the Speaker.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

**BUDGET SPEECH 2018 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF
EXPENDITURE FOR 2018**

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2018.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2017-11-27)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

40 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Current Expenditure

- 401 Policy Development and Administration
- 402 Training and Development
- 403 Nursery Education
- 404 Primary Education
- 405 Secondary Education
- 406 Post Secondary/Tertiary Education

7.

Capital Expenditure

- 401 Policy Development and Administration
- 402 Training and Development
- 403 Nursery Education
- 404 Primary Education
- 405 Secondary Education
- 406 Post Secondary/Tertiary Education

03 – MINISTER OF FINANCE

Current Expenditure

- 031 Policy and Administration
- 032 Public Financial Management

Capital Expenditure

- 031 Policy and Administration
- 032 Public Financial Management

Assembly resumed

The Minister of Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2018 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2018 was put and carried.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 – APPROPRIATION BILL 2017 – Bill No. 15/2017 published on 2017-11-28

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2017 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

8.

On motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2018, 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.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Speaker extended Christmas Greetings to the Members, staff of the Parliament Office and the Media. Ms Priya Manickchand, on behalf of the Opposition, extended thanks and Christmas Greetings to the staff of the Parliament Office, the Speaker, Media and the Members.

Ms Gail Teixeira joined the Speaker and Ms Manickchand in extending Christmas Greetings. The First Vice-President and Prime Minister also joined the Speaker in extending Christmas Greetings to the staff, Media and the Members.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.59 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on 10th January, 2018.

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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.

15th December, 2017.