

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 88<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018,**  
**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)(Absent)

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

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

4.

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

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

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)

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

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

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

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P. (Absent- on Leave)

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 2.10 p.m.

### **PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. **LEAVE:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted for today's Sitting to the Honourable Members Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy and Mr. Cornel Damon.

2. **Visit of Mr. Akbar Khan, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.**

“Honourable Members, you are all aware of the visit to Guyana, of the Honourable Mr. Akbar Khan, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, who is in our midst and will be observing part of today's proceedings. We welcome Mr. Khan to the sitting.”

6.

3. **Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance**

“Honourable Members, on May 10, 2018, I received a letter from Ms. Gail Teixeira, Opposition Chief Whip, requesting leave to adjourn the proceedings on a Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

As Honourable Members would know the time fixed for receiving such a request is not later than 11.00 a.m., on the day of the Sitting. The request was received at 15.40 hours on May 10 well within time allowed.

Such request to be approved must be Definite, Urgent and of Public Importance. The request treats of a definite matter which is of public importance and it is my estimate of things that it is urgent.

I therefore hold that the matter fully qualifies for treatment under Standing Order No. 12 and I approve the request.”

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of State:

(i) Audited Financial Report of the Protected Areas Commission for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Securities Council for the year 2017.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Natural Resources:

(i) The Code of Practice for Forest Operations No. 1 of 2018.

(Circulated)

(ii) The Forests Regulations 2018 – No. 2 of 2018.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Business:

(i) Annual Reports of the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest) for the years 2014 and 2015.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Reports of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards for the years 2006 to 2011.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**1. Recruitment of persons into the Guyana People's Militia**

A request by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to ask the Minister of State questions on the re: recruitment of persons into the Guyana People's Militia, was disallowed by the Speaker.

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

**Piracy Attack on Guyanese Fishermen off the Coast of Suriname on April 27, 2018**

A request by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance to wit, the horrific and violent attack on Friday, April 27, 2018 by pirates off the Coast of the Republic of Suriname, was allowed by the Speaker.

The motion accordingly stood over until the resumption of the sitting following the suspension thereof.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY  
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-  
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 78(2)**

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

8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 78(2) be suspended to enable the Assembly, at its Sitting on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, to consider sympathy motions on the Death of Mr. Alli Baksh, Former Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Mooneer Ahmad Khan, Former Member of Parliament, as its first and second items of Public Business.

**(Notice Paper No. 137 (M 108 Govt 59) published on 2018-05-03)**

Ms Gail Teixeira spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

#### **MOTIONS**

#### **ITEM 1 - MOTION ON THE DEATH OF MR. ALLI BAKSH, FORMER MINISTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly place on record our profound grief at the great loss suffered by the people of Guyana on the death of Mr. Alli Baksh, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana where he served as Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture and Member of Parliament from 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, and to the people of Guyana;



9.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of our heartfelt condolences and sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

**(Notice Paper No. 135 (M 106 Opp 18) published on 2018-04-26)**

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

**ITEM 2 - MOTION ON THE DEATH OF MR. MOONEER AHMAD KHAN,  
FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Clement Rohee, M.P., moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Mooneer Ahmad Khan, on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of the Senate from 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1961 to 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1964, a Member of the House of Assembly from 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1964 to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1966, and a Member of National Assembly from 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1966 to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1968, and to the people of Guyana;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

**(Notice Paper No. 136 (M 107 Opp 19) published on 2018-04-26)**

Mr. Charrandas Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

(ii) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2018 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

Financial Paper No. 2/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,526,563,240 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31.

**(Notice Paper No. 134 (M 105 Govt 58) published on 2018-04-27)**

**(Paper presented on 2018-04-26)**

**CURRENT ESTIMATES**

(i) **21-211 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION**

6321 Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

(ii) **04-041 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY**

6284 Other

**Assembly resumed**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.15 p.m. the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.30 p.m. the Sitting was resumed.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to resume consideration of Financial Paper No. 2/2018.

**CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

- (i) **21-211 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION**  
1301600 National Drainage and Irrigation Authority
  
- (ii) **32-323 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – TRANSPORT**  
1601300 CJIA Modernisation Project
  
- (iii) **49- 492 – MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECETION – SOCIAL SERVICES**  
1216400 Buildings
  
- (iv) **53- 531 – GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE – DEFENCE AND SECURITY**  
**SUPPORT**  
2404600 Air, Land and Water Transport

**Assembly resumed**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 2/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,526,563,240 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018.

**BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS**

**ITEM 2 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2 FOR 2018) BILL 2018 –  
Bill No. 8/2018 published on 2018-04-26**

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2018) Bill No. 8 /2018 to be introduced at that stage.

The Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2 for 2018) Bill No. 8 /2018 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

**Piracy Attack on Guyanese Fishermen off the Coast of Suriname on April 27, 2018**

In accordance with permission granted earlier by the Speaker, Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the matter to wit the violent attack on Guyanese Fishermen on Friday, April 27, 2018 by pirates off the Coast of the Republic of Suriname.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Vice -President and Minister of Public Security  
Mr. Clement Rohee  
The Minister of State  
Vice -President and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo

Thereafter, Ms. Gail Teixeira replied.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 3 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NO. 112 AND 28(3)**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

In keeping with Standing Order No. 112, that Standing Order No. 28(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly, at its Sitting on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, to consider the Private Member's Motion in the name of Member Gillian Burton-Persaud on the Re-establishment of the Ministry of Labour under Private Members' Business.

**(Notice Paper No. 140 (M 111 Opp 21) published on 2018-05-10)**

The motion was then put and negatived on the following division:

**FOR**

Mr. Bharrat  
Mr. Gill  
Mr. Anamayah  
Mr. Dharamlall  
Mr. Charlie

**AGAINST**

Mr. Rutherford  
Mr. Rajkumar  
Mr. C. Persaud  
Mr. Figueira  
Mr. Carrington

Dr. Mahadeo  
 Mr. Chand  
 Mr. Neendkumar  
 Ms. Pearson-Fredericks  
 Mr. G. Persaud  
 Mr. Mustapha  
 Ms. Selman  
 Dr. Westford  
 Dr. Ramsaran  
 Ms. G. Persaud  
 Mr. Croal  
 Mr. Hamilton  
 Ms. Chandrapal  
 Dr. V. Persaud  
 Mr. Seeraj  
 Bishop Edghill  
 Mr. Lumumba  
 Dr. Anthony  
 Ms. Manickchand  
 Mr. Nandlall  
 Ms. Teixeira  
 Mr. Rohee

Mr. Allen  
 Mr. Adams  
 Ms. Bancroft  
 Ms. Wade  
 Ms. Patterson  
 Ms. Henry  
 Ms. Broomes  
 Dr. Cummings  
 Mr. Sharma  
 Ms. Garrido-Lowe  
 Ms. Ferguson  
 Ms. Hastings-Williams  
 Mr. Holder  
 Mr. Gaskin  
 Ms. Hughes  
 Mr. Patterson  
 Ms. Lawrence  
 Mr. Trotman  
 Mr. Jordan  
 Dr. Norton  
 Mr. Bulkan  
 Dr. Roopnarine  
 Lt. Col (Ret'd) Harmon  
 Ms. Ally  
 Mr. Williams  
 Mr. Ramjattan  
 Mr. Greenidge  
 Mr. Nagamootoo

(ii) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**The Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2), granted approval for the following motion to be proceeded with at that Sitting:**

**ITEM 3 - LIMIT ON AMOUNT OUTSTANDING UNDER GUARANTEES GIVEN UNDER THE GUARANTEE OF LOANS (PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES) ACT**

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, the Government may in such manner and on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be agreed between it and a lending agency –

- (a) Guarantee the discharge by a Corporation of its obligations under any agreement which may be entered into by the Corporation with a lending agency in respect of any borrowing by that Corporation that is authorized by the Government;
- (b) Assume such other obligation as may be agreed between the Government and a lending agency in relation to or pursuant to any such agreement;
- (c) Undertake the repayment to a lending agency of such sums as the lending agency may have advanced to or for the benefit of the Government;

AND WHEREAS it is provided under Section 2(2) of the aforesaid Act that, for the purposes of the Act, a borrowing by a Corporation shall be deemed to include the obligation of the Corporation to make payments to any person arising out of any contract lawfully entered into by the Corporation;

16.

AND WHEREAS it is provided under Section 4(1) of the aforesaid Act that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government in respect of guarantees given under Section 3 of the Act shall not at any time exceed the sum of one thousand million dollars or such greater sum as may from time to time be specified by the Resolution of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to specify in accordance with the said Section 4(1) a greater sum for the purpose of enabling the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government in respect of guarantees to be increased due to the extended activities of those incorporated bodies to which the Act applies in accordance with the country's development programme;

AND WHEREAS by Resolution No. 56 made on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013, this National Assembly increased the limit of the guarantee to fifty thousand million with respect to the Amaila Falls Hydro Project only;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to have the limit of the guarantee set to include, along with the Amaila Falls Hydro Project, other developmental projects that are under consideration by the Government of Guyana, and as may arise in the future,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government under Section 4(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporation and Companies) Act, in respect of guarantees given under Section 3 of the Act, shall not at any time exceed the sum of fifty thousand million dollars (\$50,000,000,000), with respect to the Amaila Falls Hydro Project, and other developmental projects to be determined by the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No. 139 (M 110 Govt 60) published on 2018-05-10)**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.58 p.m., the First Vice-President and Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude consideration of the motion.



Ms. Gail Teixeira, spoke to the motion.

**Presiding by Mr. John Adams, M.P.**

At 10:10 p.m., the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. John Adams, M.P., took the Chair.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 10:12 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**MOTHERS' DAY GREETINGS**

The Speaker extended Mothers' Day Greetings to all mothers. The First Vice-President and Prime Minister joined Speaker in extending Mothers' Day Greetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.29 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 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.**

**11<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**