

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 80th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2017) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.,
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH 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)(Absent)

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 4(four) Sittings from Monday 11th to Friday 15th, December, 2017)

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)

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

5.

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 10.18 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

The Customs (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2017 – No. 39 of 2017.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Readings

**1. MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL
2017 – Bill No. 16/2017**

The Vice-President and Minister of Public Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

6.

2. **VALUE-ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2017 – Bill No. 17/2017**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Value-Added Tax Act.

3. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2017- Bill No. 18/2017**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

4. **CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2017 – Bill No. 19/2017**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

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)

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7.

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:

72 – REGION NO.2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

Current Expenditure

- 721 Regional Administration and Finance
- 722 Agriculture
- 723 Public Infrastructure
- 724 Education Delivery
- 725 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 721 Regional Administration and Finance
- 722 Agriculture
- 723 Public Infrastructure
- 724 Education Delivery
- 725 Health Services

73 – REGION NO. 3 – ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

Current Expenditure

- 731 Regional Administration and Finance
- 732 Agriculture
- 733 Public Infrastructure
- 734 Education Delivery
- 735 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 731 Regional Administration and Finance
- 732 Agriculture
- 733 Public Infrastructure
- 734 Education Delivery
- 735 Health Services

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.33 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.45 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

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

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:

74 – REGION NO. 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

Current Expenditure

- 741 Regional Administration and Finance
- 742 Agriculture
- 743 Public Infrastructure
- 744 Education Delivery
- 745 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 741 Regional Administration and Finance
- 742 Agriculture
- 743 Public Infrastructure
- 744 Education Delivery
- 745 Health Services

75 – REGION NO. 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

Current Expenditure

- 751 Regional Administration and Finance
- 752 Agriculture
- 753 Public Infrastructure
- 754 Education Delivery
- 755 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 751 Regional Administration and Finance
- 752 Agriculture
- 753 Public Infrastructure
- 754 Education Delivery
- 755 Health Services

76 – REGION NO. 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

Current Expenditure

- 761 Regional Administration and Finance
- 762 Agriculture
- 763 Public Infrastructure
- 764 Education Delivery
- 765 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 761 Regional Administration and Finance
- 762 Agriculture
- 763 Public Infrastructure
- 764 Education Delivery
- 765 Health Services

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.15 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.34 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

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

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:

77 – REGION NO. 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

Current Expenditure

- 771 Regional Administration and Finance
- 772 Public Infrastructure
- 773 Education Delivery
- 774 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 771 Regional Administration and Finance
- 772 Public Infrastructure
- 773 Education Delivery
- 774 Health Services

78 – REGION NO. 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

Current Expenditure

- 781 Regional Administration and Finance
- 782 Public Infrastructure
- 783 Education Delivery
- 784 Health Services
- 785 Agriculture

Capital Expenditure

- 781 Regional Administration and Finance
- 782 Public Infrastructure
- 783 Education Delivery
- 784 Health Services
- 785 Agriculture

79 – REGION NO. 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

Current Expenditure

- 791 Regional Administration and Finance
- 792 Agriculture
- 793 Public Infrastructure
- 794 Education Delivery
- 795 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 791 Regional Administration and Finance
- 792 Agriculture
- 793 Public Infrastructure
- 794 Education Delivery
- 795 Health Services

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.55 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the First-Vice President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Thursday, 14th 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.

13th December, 2017