

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 97th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 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 (Absent – on leave)
- + 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 (Absent – on leave)
- + 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. Dr. 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) (Absent)

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.

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. (Absent – on leave)

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. (Absent – on leave)

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.

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5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P. (Absent)

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 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. **WELCOME OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS BACK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

“Honourable Members, I welcome you all back to the Assembly at this the first Sitting of the National Assembly after your recess. I trust that all Honourable Members had an enjoyable holiday and you feel yourselves ready to start the business for which we are gathered here in this National Assembly. Welcome back Honourable Members”.

2. **THE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

“Honourable Members, I was informed that His Excellency the President Brigadier (Ret'd) David Arthur Granger, M.S.S., will attend and address the National Assembly at today's Sitting.

6.

The Sitting will be suspended at a convenient time to receive His Excellency the President.”

(1) **Leave:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to following Members:

Honourable Raphael Trotman, Minister of Natural Resources,

Honourable Winston Felix, Minister of Citizenship,

Ms. Africo Selman, and

Mr. Cornel Damon for today’s Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- (i) Report of the Auditor General to the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2017.

(Circulated)

2019 Budget Proposals Of Constitutional Agencies

- (ii) Parliament Office – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$1,845,416,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Office of the Auditor General – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$894,241,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Public and Police Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$155,596,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

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7.

- (v) Teaching Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$113,362,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (vi) Guyana Elections Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$6,368,100,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (vii) Supreme Court of Judicature – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$2,801,373,767 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (viii) Chamber of the Director of Public Prosecution – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$219,824,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (ix) Office of the Ombudsman – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$74,223,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (x) Public Service Appellate Tribunal – Current Estimate totaling \$62,828,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)
- (xi) Ethnic Relations Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$278,163,678 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.
(Circulated)

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(xii) Judicial Service Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$10,020,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

(xiii) Indigenous People's Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$30,743,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

(ixx) Human Rights Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$47,378,000 for the period 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

(xx) Rights of the Child Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$47,469,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

(xxi) Women and Gender Equality Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$45,292,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

(xxii) Public Procurement Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$276,775,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2019.

(Circulated)

9.

(xxiii) 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 2019.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Annual Report of the National Insurance Scheme for the year 2015.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financing Agreement Credit No. 6286-GY dated July 27, 2018 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the International Development Association (IDA) for SDR 24,400,000.00 for the purpose of providing financing in support of the First Programmatic Financial and Fiscal Stability Development Policy Program.

(Circulated)

(iii) Advance Agreement No. V2160 dated July 18, 2018 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the International Development Association (IDA) for US\$1,600,000.00 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of the proposed Guyana Oil and Gas Capacity Building Project designed to enhance legal and institutional frameworks and strengthen the capacity of key institutions to manage the oil and gas sector in Guyana.

(Circulated)

(iv) Financial Paper No. 3/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$7,584,274,488 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31, which will be considered on the 31st October, 2018.

(Circulated)

10.

- (v) Framework Agreement No. 09/01/1440/H dated September 1, 2018 corresponds to the Agency Agreement No. 19/09/18/G between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$20,000,000.00 for the purpose of financing the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Power Utility Programme. The Framework Agreement, which constitutes an integral part of the Agency Agreement as detailed below, sets out the parties' common understanding with regard to the implementation of the Project. In keeping with the Framework Agreement the IDB has agreed to participate in the financing of certain Assets pertaining to the Project through the Installment Sale Financing Facility.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Agency Agreement No. 19/09/18/G dated September 19, 2018 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is for an amount of US\$20,000,000.00 to finance the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Power Utility Programme. Under this Agreement, the IDB financing will facilitate among others: (1) the rehabilitation of 153 km of GPL's medium voltage and low voltage network and 6,941 smart meters, including transformers, service lines and distribution boxes; (2) the Electronic Power Control (EPC) works related to the 69 kV and 13.8 kV substations at Kingston and Vreed-en-Hoop, respectively.

(Circulated)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 2.22 p.m., the sitting was suspended to enable the Speaker to receive His Excellency the President, Brigadier David A. Granger, M.S.S.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.47 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT

The President entered the Chamber and took his place at 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, Brigadier David A. Granger, M.S.S., addressed the Assembly.

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 3.40 p.m., the Sitting was suspended to allow for the departure of the President.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 3.51 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.52 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to Wednesday, 31st October, 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.**

18th October, 2018.