

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 106<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 10.00 A.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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 (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)

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.

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. (Absent on – leave)

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)

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

5.

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 10.50 a.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(1) **Leave:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to Dr. Bheri Ramsaran for today's Sitting.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Public Security:

- (i) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment of First Schedule) Regulations 2018  
– No. 6 of 2018.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 2018 – No. 7 of 2018.

(Circulated)

6.

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) The Excise Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2018 – No. 8 of 2018.

(Circulated)

(ii) The Value-Added Tax (Amendment of Schedule II) Order 2018 – No. 48 of 2018.

(Circulated)

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **For Written reply**

#### **BENEFITS GUYANA STANDS TO GAIN FROM OVERSEAS TRIPS UNDERTAKEN BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked the Minister of State the following questions:

Would the Hon. Minister inform this House:-

- (i) The number of overseas trips the President has taken between May 16, 2015 and October 18, 2018?
- (ii) What are the costs associated with each overseas trip, including the size and members of the delegations, including spouses, undertaken by the President for the same period?
- (iii) The immediate and medium term benefits to Guyana associated with each of the overseas trips undertaken by the President and his delegations since taking office in May 16, 2015 to October 18, 2018?
- (iv) What actual benefits has Guyana gained in 2018 from each of the overseas trips undertaken by the President and his delegations from the time of taking office to October 18, 2018?

**(Notice Paper No. 171 (Q 52 Opp51) published on 2018-11-05)**

7.

## **ANSWERS**

Please see **Appendix (I)** for answers to the questions above.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### **Presentation and First Readings**

1. **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2018**  
**– Bill No. 16/2018**

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.

2. **PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 17/2018**

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 Property Tax Act.

3. **CAPITAL GAINS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 18/2018**

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 Capital Gains Tax Act.

4. **TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 19/2018**

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

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act.

5. **INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 -Bill No. 20/2018**

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 Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act.

6. **THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 21/2018**

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.

7. **VALUE-ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 22/2018**

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.

8. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 23/2018**

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



9.

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

9. **INCOME TAX (IN AID OF INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 24/2018**

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 (In Aid of Industry) Act.

10. **CORPORATION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – Bill No. 25/2018**

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

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

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET SPEECH 2019 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2019**

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2019.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2018-11-26)**

10.

**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:

**05 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY**

**Current Expenditure**

051 Policy Development and Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

051 Policy Development and Administration

**Current Expenditure**

052 Defence and National Security

**Capital Expenditure**

052 Defence and National Security

**Current Expenditure**

053 Public Service Management

**Capital Expenditure**

053 Public Service Management

**Current Expenditure**

055 Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Capital Expenditure**

055 Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Current Expenditure**

056 Social Cohesion

**Capital Expenditure**

056 Social Cohesion

11.

**Assembly resumed**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 1.44 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 2.43 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**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:

**05 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY**

**Current Expenditure**

057 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Capital Expenditure**

057 Environmental Management and Compliance

**Current Expenditure**

058 Cultural Perseveration and Conservation

**Capital Expenditure**

058 Cultural Perseveration and Conservation

**Current Expenditure**

059 Youth

**Capital Expenditure**

059 Youth

12.

**Current Expenditure**

05A Sport

**Capital Expenditure**

05A Sport

**Current Expenditure**

05B Petroleum and Energy Management

**Capital Expenditure**

05B Petroleum and Energy Management

**53-Guyana Defence Force**

**Current Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**Capital Expenditure**

531 Defence and Security Support

**02 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**Current Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**Capital Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

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**52 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

521 Main Office

**Capital Expenditure**

521 Main Office

**Current Expenditure**

522 Ministry Administration

**Capital Expenditure**

522 Ministry Administration

**Current Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Capital Expenditure**

523 Attorney General's Chambers

**Current Expenditure**

524 State Solicitor

**Capital Expenditure**

524 States Solicitor

**Assembly resumed**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.13 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.13 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

14.

**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:

**04 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

041 Development of Foreign Policy

**Capital Expenditure**

041 Development of Foreign Policy

**Current Expenditure**

042 Foreign Policy Promotion

**Capital Expenditure**

042 Foreign Policy Promotion

**Current Expenditure**

043 Development of Foreign Trade Policy

**17 – MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AFFAIRS**

**Current Expenditure**

171 Policy Development and Administration

**Presiding by Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

At 9:15 p.m., while the Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs was speaking the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P., took the Chair.

**Speaker's Return to the Chamber**

At 9:17 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

**17 – MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AFFAIRS**

**Capital Expenditure**

171 Policy Development and Administration

**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 Members to continue and conclude asking questions on the Line Item of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.00 p.m., on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 am. on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 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.**

**10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.**