

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 1ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2020
IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (35)

Peoples Progressive Party Civic (35)

Prime Minister (1)

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

Vice-President (1)

Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (16)

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip

Hon. Hugh H. Todd, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

*Non-Elected Member

2.

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara),
Minister of Education

*Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Minister of
Agriculture

Hon. Pauline R.A. Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Hon. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Vickram Outar Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources

*Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam), Minister of Local
Government and Regional Development

Hon. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini), Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Vindhya V. H. Persaud, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of
Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Sonia Savitri Parag, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

Junior Ministers (4)

Hon. Warren K.E. McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Works

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional
Development

Hon. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the
Ministry of Housing and Water

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***Non-Elected Member**

Other Members (12)

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Mr. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Mrs. Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks, M.P.

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.

Mr. Faizal M. Jaffarally, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Dr. Tandika S. Smith, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Lee G.H. Williams, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) (31)

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Roysdale A. Forde, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Ms. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.

Dr. Karen R.V. Cummings, M.P.

Ms. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Ms. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

4.

Mr. David A. Patterson, M.P., (Virtual Participation)

Ms. Coretta A. McDonald, M.P.

Ms. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

Ms. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.

Ms. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Mr. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Ms. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Mr. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Mr. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini) (Virtual Participation)

Mr. Shurwayne F.K. Holder, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Ms. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Ms. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Vinceroy H. Jordan, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Dineshwar N. Jaiprashad, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Richard E. Sinclair, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Devin L. Sears, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement (ANUG, LJP & TNM) (1)

Mr. Lenox R. O’Dell Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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 10.00 a.m.

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read the Proclamation made by the President on 27th August, 2020, appointing the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, as the place where a session of the Twelfth Parliament shall be held and 10 o'clock in the morning of 1st September, 2020, as the time when such session shall begin.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The Clerk called the names of persons whose names had been extracted from the Lists for the Geographical Constituencies and from the National Top-Up Lists and who had been declared by the Elections Commission to have become Members of the National Assembly, following the Elections on 2nd March 2020:

Declared Elected on 20th August, 2020

A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement (ANUG, LJP & TNM)

Lenox Ron O'Dell Shuman

A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC)

Ronald Cox, (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini)

Shurwayne Forbes Kennedy Holder, (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Ganesh Adjtya Mahipaul, (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Nima Natacha Flue-Bess, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Catherine Andrea Hughes, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

6.

Maureen Allison Philadelphia, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Deonarine Ramsaroop, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Vinceroy Hansel Jordan, (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Dineshwar Nand Jaiprashad, (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Dawn Hastings-Williams, (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Richard Elroy Sinclair, (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)
Jermaine Figueira, (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)
Devin Lynton Sears, (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)
Geeta Chandan-Edmond
Karen Roslyn Vanessa Cummings
Sherod Avery Duncan
Annette Natasha Ferguson
Juretha Vanessa Fernandes
Roysdale Alton Forde
Joseph Frederick Harmon
Nicolette Odella Henry
Vincent Patrick Henry
Christopher Anderson Jones
Coretta Ann McDonald
David Anthony Patterson
Haimraj Bernard Rajkumar
Khemraj Ramjattan
Tabitha Joy Sarabo-Halley
Natasha Singh-Lewis
Raphael Gregory Conwright Trotman
Amanza Owana Rukia Walton-Desir

7.

Peoples Progressive Party/Civic

Collin David Croal, (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Nigel Deonarine Dharamlall, (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Priya Devi Manickchand, (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Dr. Tandika Simone Smith, (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hugh Hilton Todd, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Vindhya Vasini Harshkumari Persaud, M.S., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Susan Margaret Rodrigues, (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Faizal Mohamoud Jaffarally, (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Vishwa Deva Budram Mahadeo, (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Zulfikar Mustapha, (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Gail Teixeira, (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Alister Saturnius Charlie, (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Frank Christopher Stanislaus Anthony

Vickram Outar Bharrat

Sanjeev Jaichandra Datadin

Bishop Juan Anthony Edghill, M.S., J.P.

Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks

Joseph Linden Fitzclarence Hamilton

Deodat Indar

Bharrat Jagdeo

Warren Kwame Eusi McCoy

Mohabir Anil Nandlall

Seepaul Narine

Sonia Savitri Parag

Anand Persaud

Mark Anthony Phillips

8.

Bheri Sygmond Ramsaran
Charles Shiva Ramson
Dharamkumar Seeraj
Pauline Rose Ann Campbell-Sukhai
Bhagmattie Veerasammy
Jennifer Reginalda Ann Westford
Lee Gendre Hakkim Williams

Appointed to be non-elected Ministers in accordance with Articles 103(3) and 105 of the Constitution:

Brindley H.R. Benn
Oneidge Walrond

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk invited Members to elect a person to be the Speaker of the National Assembly in accordance with Article 56(1) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 2 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

The Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, M.S.S., proposed and the Hon. Gail Teixeira seconded the nomination of Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

As there was no other nomination, the Clerk declared Mr. Manzoor Nadir duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, who was present, made and subscribed the Oath and was thereafter escorted by the Clerk of the National Assembly to the Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 3 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Speaker invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Speaker.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., proposed and Mrs. Catherine Hughes seconded the nomination of Mr. Raphael Trotman.

Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, M.S.S., proposed and Ms. Gail Teixeira seconded the nomination of Mr. Lenox Shuman.

The Speaker first proposed the question that the second nominee, Mr. Lenox Shuman be elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The motion was put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Sears
Mr. Figueira
Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Jaiprashad
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Ramsaroop
Ms. Philadelphia
Mrs. Flue-Bess
Mr. Mahipaul

FOR

Mr. Shuman
Ms. Veerasammy
Mr. Williams
Dr. Smith
Mr. Jaffarally
Dr. Westford
Dr. Ramsaran
Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks
Mr. Narine

Mr. Holder
 Mr. Cox
 Mr. Henry
 Ms. Fernandes
 Mr. Duncan
 Mrs Singh-Lewis
 Mrs. Walton Desir
 Mr. Rajkumar
 Mrs. Hughes
 Ms. Mc Donald
 Mr. Patterson
 Ms. Ferguson
 Mr. Jones
 Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
 Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
 Dr. Cummings
 Dr. Henry
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Forde
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Harmon

Mr. Datadin
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Seeraj
 Ms. Rodrigues
 Mr. A. Persaud
 Mr. Indar
 Mr. McCoy
 Ms. Parag
 Mr. Ramson
 Dr. V. Persaud
 Mr. Croal
 Mr. Dharamlall
 Mr. Bharrat
 Mr. Hamilton
 Ms Campbell-Sukhai
 Mr. Mustapha
 Ms. Manickchand
 Dr. Anthony
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Todd
 Ms. Teixeira
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Jagdeo
 Mr. Phillips

OATHS

The oath of office was made and subscribed by:

(i) Peoples Progressive Party/ Civic

Mark Anthony Phillips

Bharrat Jagdeo

Mohabir Anil Nandlall

Gail Teixeira

Hugh Hilton Todd

Bishop Juan Anthony Edghill

Frank Christopher Stanislaus Anthony

Priya Devi Manickchand

Brindley Horatio Robeson Benn

Zulfikar Mustapha

Pauline Rose Ann Campbell-Sukhai

Joseph Linden Fitzclarence Hamilton

Vickram Outar Bharrat

Oneidge Walrond

Nigel Deonarine Dharamlall

Collin David Croal

Vindhya Vasini Harshkumari Persaud

Charles Shiva Ramson

Sonia Savitri Parag

Warren Kwame Eusi McCoy

Deodat Indar

Anand Persaud

Susan Margaret Rodrigues

12.

Dharamkumar Seeraj
Alister Saturnius Charlie
Vishwa Deva Budram Mahadeo
Sanjeev Jaichandra Datadin
Seepaul Narine
Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks
Bheri Sygmond Ramsaran
Jennifer Reginalda Ann Westford
Faizal Mohamoud Jaffarally
Tandika Simone Smith
Lee Gendre Hakkim Williams
Bhagmattie Veerasammy

(ii) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC)

Joseph Frederick Harmon
Khemraj Ramjattan
Roysdale Alton Forde
Raphael Gregory Conwright Trotman
Dawn Hastings-Williams
Nicolette Odella Henry
Karen Roslyn Vanessa Cummings
Tabitha Joy Sarabo-Halley
Geeta Chandan-Edmond
Christopher Anderson Jones
Annette Natasha Ferguson
David Anthony Patterson
Coretta Ann McDonald

13.

Catherine Andrea Hughes
Haimraj Bernard Rajkumar
Amanza Owana Rukia Walton-Desir
Natasha Singh-Lewis
Sherod Avery Duncan
Juretha Vanessa Fernandes
Vincent Patrick Henry
Ronald Cox
Shurwayne Forbes Kennedy Holder
Ganesh Adjtya Mahipaul
Nima Natacha Flue-Bess
Maureen Allison Philadelphia
Deonarine Ramsaroop
Vinceroy Hansel Jordan
Dineshwar Nand Jaiprashad
Richard Elroy Sinclair
Jermaine Figueira
Devin Lynton Sears

**(iii) A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement
(ANUG, LJP & TNM)**
Lenox Ron O'Dell Shuman

At 11.21 a.m. the Members of the Opposition withdrew from the Dome.

REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker of the National Assembly made the following remarks:

“All praises are for the Almighty. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Honourable Members, it is with immense humility and gratitude that I accept your nomination, to this esteemed position of Speaker of the National Assembly for this Twelfth Parliament of Guyana. My sincerest thanks to the Almighty, to you Hon. Members, to His Excellency the President of the Co-operative

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Republic of Guyana, my wife and children, to my extended family and all of my friends and colleagues who have been a part of my public life for the past forty years. Yes, it looks as if it was only yesterday that I stood at the corner of Cross and Third Streets Alexander Village, some four decades ago, making my first appearance on a public platform. Those forty years have seen our dear land transformed from the cast-net to the internet and have also witnessed our struggles to build a society powered by the rule of law and democracy, being tested but taking root.

As Guyana continues to transition into a vibrant and even stronger democracy within an emerging oil economy, it is of utmost importance that this Twelfth Parliament be effective, successful, and exemplary. The Twelfth Parliament, unlike other convened Parliamentary sessions, is occurring in a Covid-19 environment which prevents us from sitting within the illustrious halls of the Parliament Chamber. What a feeling of majesty- it was for me, as a First Time Parliamentarian, to enter those hallowed hall of the Parliament Chamber – a feeling that I pray the first time Parliamentarians of the Twelfth Parliament will experience one day soon, but Covid-19 has thrown the world into a state of re-evaluation. We are now forced to compromise on what was the “normal” course of business. But rest assured I am committed to the safety and well-being of the Members and Employees of the National Assembly. There will have to be changes for us to comply with being our brother’s keepers. I trust that Honourable Members will unite and cooperate for the safety of all and to ensure that the business of the Assembly progress.

While we have differences that divide us, Guyanese are united in our love and patriotism for our country. Like you, I have a passionate love for this land. I remember sitting on a not so Honourable seat four decades ago. I was reading a torn page from the Chronicle and I saw the words of my favourite national song, My Native Land.

“Oh I care not that others rave over the fair lands afar;
Where silvern lakes and placid streams mirror the evening star;
I care not though their wealth be great, their scenery grand –
For none so fair as can compare with my own native land..”

15.

The words of My Native Land were my catalyst to get involved in the struggle for democracy. I have carried that piece of paper in my wallet since then, - a daily reminder of the reason for an enduring commitment to public service for the last forty years

To the new Parliamentarians, first, I congratulate you on your respective appointments. The responsibilities that come with membership of the Honourable House require dedication, unbiased dialogue, integrity and most importantly, acting in the best interest of the people of Guyana, without whom, we all would not have been here today. When an individual is nominated by a list of electors on nomination's day, he/she does so with the understanding that your constituents are entrusting you with their lives, their future and will rely on you to represent them by speaking on their behalf. As you took your oaths today, I urge you therefore to always be accessible to your constituents and to uphold your vows to the people of Guyana.

To those who have returned to continue your sterling contributions to your country, I say welcome back and let us continue in our resolve to make betterment for our people.

As we embark on the commencement of the agenda of the assembly, I am enthusiastic and dedicated to making this Twelfth Parliament, one that will positively impact on pertinent issues such as constitutional reform, legislative reform, and the implementation of new laws/ Acts that caters for our changing realities. I am committed to working with all sides of the House to ensure that this Twelfth Parliament will be inscribed, in the history of our country, as being the most successful and productive ever.

Having sat in this very House for twenty three(23) plus years as a Member on both the Opposition and Government sides, I understand the importance of this position and I promise to be impartial, fair, and just while upholding the rules, laws and procedures in the execution of my responsibilities as Speaker of this Honourable House. The veracity of this noble institution must and will be upheld at all times during my tenure. Let us all unite in making Guyana a great and powerful nation with citizens who live together as one people, one nation with one destiny.

16.

In this regard, what a fitting commencement as we meet on the first day of September, the first day of Amerindian Heritage Month. The first Amerindian Member of the House, Stephen Campbell first entered this House on the Tenth of September. I take this opportunity to wish our Amerindian people and all Guyanese a glorious Amerindian Heritage Month.

On your behalf, on behalf of the Members of the Eleventh Parliament, on behalf of the staff and on my own behalf, I now offer appreciative and sincerest thanks to former Speaker, Dr. the Hon Barton Scotland for his service to the last Parliament and to the people of our country. His stewardship leaves a rich legacy whence we can build a brighter tomorrow.

Thank You.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Appointment of Ministers

The Speaker informed Members, for the record, of the names of the persons who had been appointed by the President to be Ministers and Members of the Cabinet: -

Appointed with effect from 2nd August, 2020

Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, M.S.S., Prime Minister

Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice-President

Mohabir Anil Nandlall, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Gail Teixeira, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

Appointed with effect from 5th August, 2020

Hugh H. Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., Minister of Public Works

Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, Minister of Health

Priya D. Manickchand, Minister of Education

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17.

Brindley H.R. Benn, Minister of Home Affairs
Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture
Pauline R.A. Campbell-Sukhai, Minister of Amerindian Affairs
Joseph L.F. Hamilton, Minister of Labour
Vickram Outar Bharrat, Minister of Natural Resources
Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
Nigel D. Dharamlall, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development
Collin D. Croal, Minister of Housing and Water
Vindhya V. H. Persaud, M.S., Minister of Human Services and Social Security
Charles S. Ramson, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
Sonia Savitri Parag, Minister of the Public Service
Kwame W.E. McCoy, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister
Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works
Anand Persaud, Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
Susan M. Rodrigues, Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 11.34 a.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 12.17 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

By the **Speaker of the National Assembly**:

2020 Budget Proposals of Constitutional Agencies:

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- (i) Parliament Office – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$1,799,248,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (ii) Office of the Auditor General – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$908,636,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (iii) Public and Police Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$150,636,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (iv) Teaching Service Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$117,075,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (v) Guyana Elections Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$4,943,052,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (vi) Supreme Court of Judicature – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$2,443,164,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)
- (vii) Chamber of the Director of Public Prosecution – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$229,412,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.
(Circulated)

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(viii) Office of the Ombudsman – Current Estimate totaling \$70,001,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(ix) Public Service Appellate Tribunal – Current Estimate totaling \$40,911,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(x) Ethnic Relations Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$220,802,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(xi) Judicial Service Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$10,020,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(xii) Indigenous People’s Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$24,392,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(ixx) Human Rights Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$25,958,000 for the period 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(xx) Rights of the Child Commission – Current Estimate totaling \$46,095,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

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(xxi) Women and Gender Equality Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$49,945,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(xxii) Public Procurement Commission – Current and Capital Estimates totaling \$206,460,000 for the period ending 31st December, 2020.

(Circulated)

(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 2020.

(Circulated)

(xix) 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, 2018.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-

The Speaker's consent was given, in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2), for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance to move the following motions:

1. - **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Government moved the following motion:

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WHEREAS Standing Order 9 provides that “unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held between the 10th August and 10th October in any year;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order 112 provides that any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended, after notice, or with the leave of the Speaker, on a motion by a member at any sitting;

AND WHEREAS due to the dissolution of the 11th Parliament on the 30th December, 2019, there has been no sittings of the National Assembly, and, therefore no Annual Budget has been presented and considered for the Year 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana is desirous of commencing the work of the National Assembly as soon as possible including the urgent presentation and consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2020 in the National Assembly on or before 10th October, 2020;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to suspend Standing Order No. 9 in order to allow the commencement of sittings of the National Assembly to deliberate on urgent parliamentary matters including the presentation and consideration of the 2020 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure on or before 10th October, 2020.

(Notice Paper No. 1 (M1 Govt 1) published on 2020-08-28)

The motion was then put and carried.

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2. - **HOURS OF SITTING**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Government moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(1) provides for every sitting of the National Assembly to begin at 2.00 p.m. and unless previously adjourned, end at 10.00 p.m. on the same day;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(2) provides that the Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolved, the Speaker shall, at 4.00 p.m., suspend the sitting for one hour, and at 7.00 p.m. suspend the sitting for half an hour;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(3) provides for the Assembly at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debate suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs one (1) and two (2) of Standing Order No. 10;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(4) provides for the Assembly from time to time, alter, by Resolution, the hours provided by Standing Order No. 10 for the beginning and ending of a sitting.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 10(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit in the Twelfth Parliament during the following hours due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID – 19) pandemic, to proceed with the work of the National Assembly:

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- 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon – Sitting
- 12.00 noon. - 1.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 1.00 pm. - 4.00 p.m. – Sitting
- 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. - Suspension
- 5.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. - Sitting

(Notice Paper No. 2 (M2 Govt 2) published on 2020-08-28)

The motion was the put and carried.

Suspension of Standing Order No. 71(2)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance moved that Standing Order No. 71(2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude consideration of the Current and Capital Estimates of the Constitutional Agencies for the year 2020.

The motion was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES OF CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

In accordance with Article 222A of the Constitution, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and approved of the Estimates of Expenditure of the Constitutional Agencies for the year 2020, as follows:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>2020 Budget Proposal</u>	<u>2020 Budget Approved</u>
Parliament Office		
Current and Capital	\$1,799,248,000	\$1,799,248,000

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<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>2020 Budget Proposal</u>	<u>2020 Budget Approved</u>
Office of the Auditor General		
Current and Capital	\$908,636,000	\$908,636,000
Public and Police Service Commission		
Current and Capital	\$150,636,000	\$150,636,000
Teaching Service Commission		
Current and Capital	\$117,075,000	\$117,075,000
Guyana Elections Commission		
Current and Capital	\$4,943,052,000	\$4,943,052,000
Supreme Court of Judicature		
Current and Capital	\$2,443,164,000	\$2,443,164,000
Chamber of the Director of Public Prosecution		
Current and Capital	\$229,412,000	\$229,412,000
Office of the Ombudsman		
Current	\$70,001,000	\$70,001,000
Public Service Appellate Tribunal		
Current	\$40,911,000	\$40,911,000
Ethnic Relations Commission		
Current and Capital	\$220,802,000	\$220,802,000

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<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>2020 Budget Proposal</u>	<u>2020 Budget Approved</u>
Judicial Service Commission		
Current	\$10,020,000	\$10,020,000
Indigenous People's Commission		
Current	\$24,392,000	\$24,392,000
Human Rights Commission		
Current	\$25,958,000	\$25,958,000
Rights of the Child Commission		
Current	\$46,095,000	\$46,095,000
Women and Gender Equality Commission		
Current and Capital	\$49,945,000	\$49,945,000
Public Procurement Commission		
Current and Capital	\$206,460,000	\$206,460,000

Assembly resumed

Thereafter, the Assembly approved of the sums voted for the Constitutional Agencies to form part of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Public Sector for 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12.45 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

1st September, 2020.