

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 15TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON MONDAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 2020
IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly (Virtual Participation)

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (38)

Peoples Progressive Party Civic (38)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Vice-President (1)

Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President (Absent)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (17)

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 (Virtual Participation)

*Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

2.

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

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 O. Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources (Virtual Participation)

*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 – BarimaWaini), 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 S. 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**

3.

Other Members (14)

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

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

Hon. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Hon. Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

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

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

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

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

*Hon. Sarah Browne, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

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

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

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P.

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

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

Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.

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

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P. (Virtual Participation)

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P.

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

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P. (Virtual Participation)

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

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. 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)

Hon. Lenox R. O’Dell Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Virtual Participation)

Officers (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms. Hermina Gilgerous, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

5.

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 10.11 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcement:

Feeling Unwell

The Speaker informed the House that he was unwell and would be participating virtually in that Sitting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

REGIONAL PROCUREMENT AND TENDER ADMINISTRATION BOARDS

Member Asking: Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

- (1) Can the Honourable Minister provide the names and job titles of every member of the Regional Procurement and Tender Administration Boards for all ten Administrative Regions?

- (2) Can the Honourable Minister state what method was used to appoint members to the Regional Procurement and Tender Administration Boards in all ten Administrative Regions? Was it by an election or selection and who facilitated/conducted/supervised the method used to appoint members to the Regional Procurement and Tender administration Boards for all ten Administrative Regions?

(Notice Paper No.19 (Q11 Opp.11) published on 2020-12-07)

6.

Answer:

See **Appendix** for the answer to the above questions.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2019 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2019 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$4,150,242,391 for the period 2019-06-13 to 2019-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 25 (M11 Govt.8) published on 2020-12-23)

(Paper presented on 2020-12-23)

(i) 21-212 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES
CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

(ii) 32-321 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2606700 – Hinterland Electrification

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(iii) **32-322 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – PUBLIC WORKS**

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1501400 – Sea and River Defence Works

(iv) **42-422 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

DEVELOPMENT

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1903200 – Central Housing and Planning Authority

(v) **43-433 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH – FAMILY HEALTH CARE**

SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6261 – Local Travel and Subsistence

(vi) **76-762 – REGION#6 – EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE – AGRICULTURE**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6231 – Fuel and Lubricants

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for 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. 2/2019 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$4,150,242,391 for the period 2019-06-13 to 2019-12-31.

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8.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

**ITEM 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2 FOR 2019) BILL 2020 –
Bill No. 17/2020 published on 2020-12-23**

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.17/2020 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for 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 Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2019, 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.

MOTIONS

**ITEM 3 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2020 – CURRENT AND
CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

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BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2020 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital)
totalling \$792,330,925 for the period 2020-10-01 to 2020-12-21.

(Notice Paper No. 26 (M12 Govt.9) published on 2020-12-23)

(Paper presented on 2020-12-23)

(i) **16-162 – MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS – COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6301 – Education Subvention and Grants

(ii) **21-212 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

(iii) **51-512 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS – GUYANA POLICE FORCE
CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

2405900 – Land and Water Transport

(iv) **53-531 – GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE – DEFENCE AND SECURITY SUPPORT
CURRENT ESTIMATES**

6282 – Equipment Maintenance

6302 – Training (including Scholarships)

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2404600 – Air, Land and Water Transport

Assembly resumed

CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS

The Speaker extended congratulations to the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs on the Conferment of Silk on him by His Excellency the President. The Minister of Education and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly joined the Speaker in extending congratulations to the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.42 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.39 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed with the consideration of Financial Paper No. 1/2020.

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for 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. 1/2020 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$792,330,925, for the period 2020-01-01 to 2020-12-21.

ITEM 4 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2020 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2020 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$17,403,413,490 for the period 2020-01-01 to 2020-12-21.

(Notice Paper No. 27 (M13 Govt.10) published on 2020-12-23)

(Paper presented on 2020-12-23)

(i) **03-031– MINISTRY OF FINANCE – POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**
CURRENT ESTIMATES

6272 – Electricity Charges

(ii) **16-162– MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS – COMMUNITY**
DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1400100 – Amerindian Development Fund

(iii) **21- 212 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT**
AND SUPPORT SERVICES
CURRENT ESTIMATES

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

12.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

4503200– Contributions to Local Corporation – GUYSUCO

(iv) **31-312 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS – PUBLIC WORKS**

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1404100 – Miscellaneous Roads/Drainage

(v) **39-392 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY –**

SOCIAL SERVICES

CURRENT ESTIMATES

6343 – Old Age Pensions and Social Assistance

(vi) **45-452 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

AND MANAGEMENT

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

1903100 – Infrastructure Development and Buildings

(vii) **53-531 – GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE – DEFENCE AND SECURITY SUPPORT**

COMMUNITY

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

2404600 – Air, Land and Water Transport

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

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

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RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 2/2020 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$17,403,413,490 for the period 2020-01-01 to 2020-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 5 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.1 FOR 2020) BILL 2020 –

Bill No. 18/2020 published on 2020-12-23

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2020) Bill No. 18/2020 to be introduced at that stage.

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1 for 2020) Bill No. 18/2020 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:

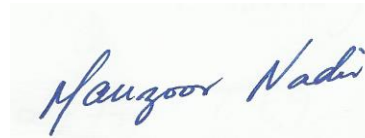
A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2020, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

The Speaker extended New Year's Greetings to the citizens of Guyana, Members of the Assembly, Clerk of the National Assembly, staff of the Parliament Office and the Media. The Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister joined the Speaker in extending New Year's Greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.02 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.,
Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

28th December, 2020.