

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 17TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION 2020-2021 OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021
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

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

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

*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 (Virtual-Participation)

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

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., (Virtual — Participation)

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

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

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

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*Non-Elected Member

4.

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 Ao 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

Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 10.56 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

"In the space of one week, between the last Sitting and this one, I have experienced so many breaches of the Standing Orders, Parliamentary Conventions and Custom and Practices that demand, that I highlight them again, caution Members and take action to enforce Standing Orders".

1. PUBLISHING AND CAUSING IN-CAMERA PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

"Arriving on my WhatsApp account was a recording of part of the in-camera proceedings of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee Meeting of Monday, February 1, 2021. It could happen only a few ways — among which is that someone, who was present at that meeting, made that recording. I would not speculate on the others. I remind Honourable Members of Standing Order 95 (9) (a):

"the meetings of a committee shall be held in private"

There are exceptions — SO 95 (9)(b):

"(b) However, Sectoral Committees and the Public Accounts Committee may sit in public, unless the Committee determines otherwise, In determining what proceedings shall be held in private, the Committee shall strive to reach a decision by consensus, failing which the provisions of Standing Order No. 48 [Decision of Questions] shall apply.

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At the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, the custom and convention is, that the public is invited when the Auditor General's Report is being considered.

At the 101st Sitting of the Eleventh Parliament held on 3rd December, 2018, the then Hon. Speaker Scotland said:

“I noticed that one Member had a device which appeared to be recording the statement or recording events in the Chamber, I am not sure which one it was. What I am saying to Members is, that is not the practice. If a Member wishes to record, I am sure the Clerk of the National Assembly would issue the necessary instructions for such a recording to be made available. What I would say to all Members is, we should avoid the use of recording devices in the Chamber”.

“I caution and implore Honourable Members to respect and uphold the SOS and not to bring the National Assembly into disrepute.”

2. CRITICISMS OF THE SPEAKER'S DECISIONS CLAIMS OF BIAS AND IMPINGING THE INTEGRITY OF THE SPEAKER

"It seems that after the sixteenth Sitting of the National Assembly, it was open season on the Standing Orders and the Speaker. At the second Sitting of this Assembly I had cause to raise issue of criticising the Speaker's decisions and accusing the Speaker of bias.

"One of the best-known rules of Parliamentary Procedure, which should be familiar to Parliamentarians worldwide, is that the conduct of the Speaker cannot be criticised except by way of a substantive motion”.

This was taken from a document that the Speaker the Honourable Scotland used. Reference was made to the Canadian House of Commons Procedure and Practise, 2nd Edition, pages 313 — 314 states:

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"...reflections of the character or actions of the Speaker, for example, an allegation of bias, could be taken by the House as breaches of privilege and can be punished accordingly".

First, the Honourable Member Sherod Duncan, after the last sitting, levelled labels at the Speaker which included words such as bias, partisan and non-partisan Speaker. In one of the Hon. Member Duncan's social media posts backed up with lampoons, he writes:

"Mister Speaker started out nice like them new cook shop, and then the price raise and the standards fall. I thought after the second bout of COVID he'd stay closer to God, but the devils got him bias, partisan... you name it, Everybody showing deh selves for 30 pieces of silver. Guess, after protesting Granger at Pegasus there is no coming back, is just straight to hell. He also inserts a picture of himself holding a placard saying:

"NON- PARTISAN SPEAKER SHOWS HIS HAND"

"Hon. Members, the Hon. Duncan's social media comments and lampoon is a direct charge of bias against the Speaker and it imputes on the Speaker's character. It also is something which is not condone in Westminster Parliamentary Systems. I urge the Hon. Member to desist."

3. CRITICISMS OF THE SPEAKER'S DECISIONS RE THE "NARCOTICS BILL AND ON THE MURDERED HENRY BOYS AND SINGH MOTION

"On January 28, 2021, the Hon. Sherod Duncan on another programme he hosts, had the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as his guest, they both went on an attack of the Standing Orders, Conventions and Customs and Practice on the Speaker. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Duncan were criticising the Speaker's decisions on the Narcotics Bill and the Motion on the murdered Henry boys and Singh. Below, is a sample of the commentaries of these two Hon. Gentlemen:

"With respect to a mistake made by the Speaker in saying the Ayes have it on the Narcotics Bill, which the Speaker immediately corrected the Hon. Member Duncan imputed that the Speaker reversed his decision after he was prevailed upon or coaxed by the government. These were some of his words Hon. Sherod

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Duncan. Then his colleagues prevailed upon him. He had to be coaxed that the Opposition cannot win the debate''.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition also weighed in saying:

''The Speaker himself was convinced that at the end of the debate the ayes had it. And that he had to change his initial position''.

But the most vile and atrocious actions emanated from the Leader of the Opposition. These are some of his comments:

''They (PPPC) are blocking things and they are getting the help of the Speaker to prevent certain measures from going through. The additional Majority which they have. Very early we got an indication that the Speaker was going to take a position on this matter, that the matter was sub judice. Was not disallowed by the Government but by the Speaker. Let us put the blame exactly where it is. The last time I criticized him in public he made a big thing about it, but this time he will have to make a big thing again. Every effort was made to prevent it from being heard''.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition:

- -"Criticised the Speaker's decision to not hear, at the 16th Sitting, the Motion on the late Henrys and Singh.
- He imputed improper motive that the Speaker was in collusion to prevent the motion from being heard.
- He accepted that he knew what he was doing was against the rules and publicly challenged the Speaker to make a comment on his action".

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows better.

- "He is a decorated soldier.
- He is a lawyer.
- He is intelligent.

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- He is experienced.
- And, he is a most important person, a leader in our country".

I outline the process for Motions and Bills.

- Standing Order 51/52 deals with Private Members Bill.
- Standing Order 52 (1) calls for fourteen clear days be required, not including the date of receipt nor the date placed on the Order Paper.
- Standing Order 24 deals with arrangements of business and how Motions qualify for the Order Paper
- Standing Order 24(2) stipulates that every fourth sitting Private Members Business get priority, except if there is a Financial Paper
- Standing Order 41 (2) deals with impugning improper motive"

The Henries and Singh Motion was submitted by the Hon. Member Geeta Chandan-Edmond on November 16. It was read against the Standing Orders and the Hon. Member was written to on November 23 regarding the amendments to the Motion to make it compliant with the SOS. This was a few days later.

The Motion matured 14 days later and was circulated to Members via Notice Paper No. 18 dated December 1, 2020. The date for the Order Paper was December 14, 2020.

The National Assembly met on December 23, 2020, where the Financial Papers took precedence. The next Sitting was December 28, 2020, and it was agreed by the two sides that the matter would be deferred to the next sitting, that sitting was January 28, 2021. During this period developments rendered the Motion *sub judice*. Two weeks before this Sitting, charges were laid.

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Hon. Members, how could there be collusion to delay or not deal with this motion? Within days of receipt, this motion was dealt with. It was circulated on Notice Paper two weeks after it was received and placed on Order Paper. The issue of matters being *sub judice* is well documented in our Standing Orders.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is known to be a strategist. He achieved a very high rank in the army before he became a lawyer, a politician and now Leader of the Opposition. I am sure he has studied the seminal works of Julius Caesar in Gaelic Wars and Sun Tzu's Art of War and he continues to apply appropriately.

I say I am neither anyone's little boy nor am I intimidated by front yard or backyard bullies. Any occurrence or reoccurrence of breaches of the SOS, I will have to ask a Minister to move a motion (SO 47(3) to refer the errant Member or Members to the Committee of Privileges".

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COVID-19 Pandemic in Guyana

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P., asked the Minister of Health the following questions:

- a. Could the Hon. Member tell the August body where the comprehensive plan is for the management of COVID-19 and could the Hon. Member provide a copy of the plan for the COVID-19 pandemic in Guyana?

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

- b. Could the Minister tell this August Assembly if the Ministry of Health will be able to adequately monitor the impact of these variants as the coronavirus continues to mutate and while COVID-19 spreads and the citizens of Guyana await testing for the variants?

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

- c. In the light of this new variant strain of the COVID-19 virus, does the Minister plan to scale up the purchase of vaccines?

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

- d. Would we see in Guyana another lockdown to help contain the virus and perhaps school closure anytime, bearing in mind that several countries are beginning to impose travel bans as a consequence; there are lockdowns in countries like our sister CARICOM country Barbados, a south America country like Peru, Israel, there are travel bans from Europe and the USA?

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

- e. Is there adequate Public Health infrastructure to keep pace with the effective testing, tracing, treating, and the isolation of the citizens of Guyana?

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

For Written Replies

1. SCHOLARSHIPS

Member Asking: Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide the programmes and cost of every local Scholarship awarded since August 2, 2020?
2. Can the Honourable Minister provide the programmes, country and cost of every overseas Scholarship awarded since August 2, 2020?
3. Can the Honourable Minister indicate how many of the overseas Scholarships awarded since August 2, 2020 are online Scholarships?

4. Can the Honourable Minister give an accurate breakdown of the geographic and demographic spread of the awardees for both local and overseas Scholarships?

(Notice Paper No. 29 (Q15 Opp. 15) published on 2021-01-11)

See **Appendix I** for the answers to the questions above.

2. CONTRACTED EMPLOYEES

Member Asking: Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide the designation, emoluments (salaries and other benefits) of each person employed on contract in the Ministry of the Public Service and its gazetted umbrella and associated Agencies since August 2, 2020?
2. Can the Honourable Minister advise if the salaries and allowances for these employees were catered for in the Budget 2020 and, if so, under which line item?

(Notice Paper No. 30 (Q16 Opp.16) published on 2021-01-11)

See **Appendix II** for the answers to the questions above.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - THE FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT)

BILL 2021 - Bill No. 1/2021 published on 2021-01-27

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act.

(Read a first time on 2021-01-28)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.23 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.38 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Bill.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

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

Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and
Government Chief Whip

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.09 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.07 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Bill.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

"2A. Section 66 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the words "Part IX" the word "Act".

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Clause 4 was passed as printed.

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Clause 6 was passed as printed.

Clause 7 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, the Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT OF FIRST SCHEDULE) (NO. 3) ORDER 2020 - NO. 82 OF 2020

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Sections 8 and 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs (Amendment of First Schedule) (No. 3) Order 2020 (No. 82 of 2020) which was made on 30th December, 2020, under Section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 and published in the Official Gazette dated 30th December, 2020.

(Notice Paper No. 33 (M16 Govt 11) published on 2021-01-28)

Presiding by Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

At 6.24 p.m. the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 6.40 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

The motion was then **put** and **carried**.

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC LOAN (INCREASING OF LIMIT)
ORDER 2021 -NO. 2 OF 2021

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS since assuming office in August 2020, the new Government has identified significant outstanding obligations that were accumulated by the previous administration including large overdrafts at the Bank of Guyana as well as payables owed to several other entities, along with significant contingent liabilities that were contracted and that have since materialized resulting in additional calls on the public purse;

AND WHEREAS these obligations are not currently classified as public debt but, had they been so classified or had they otherwise been settled or resolved through the fiscal accounts, they would have resulted in a breach of the prevailing statutory ceiling on domestic debt, but they were instead left outstanding and unresolved at the time the last administration demitted office;

AND WHEREAS regularising and resolving these outstanding obligations will result in additional incurrence of fiscal deficits and additional issuance of domestic debt;

AND WHEREAS the new Government has outlined an ambitious programme of development aimed at transforming Guyana and delivering improved quality of life to all Guyanese, which will require new financing including through additional domestic debt,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Public Loans Act, Chapter 74: 13, confirm the Public Loans (Increasing of Limit) Order 2021 (No. 2 of 2021) which was made on 27th January, 2021, under Section 2(1) of the Public Loans Act, Chapter 74: 13 and published in the Official Gazette dated 27th January, 2021.

(Notice Paper No. 34 (M17 Govt 12) published on 2021-01-28)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Shurwayne Holder, M.P.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 7.53 p.m., the Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue and conclude the debate on the motions.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

Presiding by Hon. Dharamkumar Seerai, M.P.

At 8.47 p.m. the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 9.07 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

The motion was **put** and **carried** on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks

Mr. Narine

Mr. Datadin

AGAINST

Mr. Sears

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Holder

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
Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Manickchand
Dr. Anthony
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Todd
Ms. Teixeira
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Phillips

Mr. Cox
Mr. Henry
Ms. Fernandes
Mr. Duncan
Mrs. Singh-Lewis
Mrs. Walton-Desir
Mr. Rajkumar
Mrs. Hughes
Ms. McDonald
Mr. Patterson
Ms. Ferguson
Mr. Jones
Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
Dr. Cummings
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mr. Forde
Mr. Ramjattan
Lt. col. (Ret'd) Harmon

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTERNAL LOANS (INCREASING OF LIMIT) ORDER 2021 - NO. 3 OF 2021

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS since assuming office in August 2020, the new Government has identified significant outstanding obligations that were accumulated by the previous administration including large overdrafts at the Bank of Guyana as well as payables owed to several other entities, along with significant contingent liabilities that were contracted and that have since materialized resulting in additional calls on the public purse;

AND WHEREAS the new Government has also identified significant external loans that were contracted and that are currently undisbursed, but were they to have been fully disbursed at the time the last administration demitted office, they would have utilised a significant amount of the room remaining within the prevailing statutory ceiling on external debt;

AND WHEREAS the new Government has outlined an ambitious programme of development aimed at transforming Guyana and delivering improved quality of life to all Guyanese, which will require new financing including through additional external debt,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 3(7) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08, confirm the External Loans (Increasing of Limit) Order 2021 (No. 3 of 2021) which was made on 27th January, 2021, under Section 3(1) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08 and published in the Official Gazette dated 27th January, 2021.

(Notice Paper No. 35 (M18 Govt 13) published on 2021-01-28)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Hon. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance replied.

The motion was **put** and **carried** on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Shuman

Ms. Veerasammy

Mr. Williams

Dr. Smith

Mr. Jaffarally

Dr. Westford

Dr. Ramsaran

Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks

Mr. Narine

Mr. Datadin

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Seeraj

Ms. Rodrigues

Mr. Indar

Mr. A. Persaud

Mr. McCoy

Ms. Parag

AGAINST

Mr. Sears

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Ramsaroop

Ms. Philadelphia

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Holder

Mr. Cox

Mr. Henry

Ms. Fernandes

Mr. Duncan

Mrs. Singh-Lewis

Mrs. Walton-Desir

Mr. Rajkumar

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Ramson
Dr. V. Persaud
Mr. Croal
Mr. Dharamlall
Mr. Bharrat
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Manickchand
Dr. Anthony
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Todd
Ms. Teixeira
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Phillips

Ms. McDonald
Ms. Ferguson
Mr. Jones
Mrs. Chandan-Edmond
Mrs. Sarabo-Halley
Dr. Cummings
Dr. Henry
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Forde
Mr. Ramjattan

ADJOURNMENT

At 1 1.30 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 11th February, 2021.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

4th, February 2021.