

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 35TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2022) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2022
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 (Virtual Participation)

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

*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

***Non-Elected Member**

/...2

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

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

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

/...3

***Non-Elected Member**

3.

Other Members (14)

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Alistair 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
(Absent – on leave)

*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture
(Absent- on leave)

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 (Virtual Participation)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

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.

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

4.

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

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

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)

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

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 – Barima Waini)

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) (Virtual Participation)

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

5.

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 2.22 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1) CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS

The Honourable Speaker extended congratulations to Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P., on her election as General Secretary for the Peoples National Congress.

2) WELCOME OF MEMBERS

The Speaker welcomed Members of the National Assembly to the First Sitting of the year.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Health:

The Public Health (Coronavirus) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 – No. 14 of 2021.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Speaker disallowed a request from Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., to ask an Oral Question Without Notice in relation to 7% Retroactive Salary Increase that the Regional Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Mayors and Deputy Mayors did not receive.

/...6

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. RELOCATION OF BROAD AND LOMBARD STREETS RESIDENTS Member

Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

During the Coalition Government's tenure in office, commitments were made to relocate residents of Lots 17 and 18 Broad and Lombard Streets and to have them resettled into wholesome communities, which began in July, 2017. A total of 140 persons were affected with 51 being households.

The project was identified in two (2) phases:

Phase 1: Relocation of twenty (20) households to Prospect, East Bank Demerara and

Phase 2: Relocation of twenty (20) households to Cummings Lodge, Greater Georgetown. The Coalition Government commenced and completed Phase 1 prior to leaving office on August 2, 2020.

Can the Honourable Minister say whether Phase 2 of the Project has commenced? If yes, can the Minister state the location and how many houses have been constructed?

(Notice Paper No. 142 (Q111 Opp.111) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“Relocation of persons from zero tolerance areas is part of the Ministry’s Housing Programme”.

2. ALLOCATION POLICY ON CONSIDERATION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

1. Can the Honourable Minister state whether there has been a change in Policy regarding household income for allocation to determine eligibility post August 2, 2020? If yes, what has occasioned this change and what is the new Policy as per category for eligibility?

7.

2. Was there a public advisory to guide applicants? If yes, when, and how was this done?

(Notice Paper No. 143 (Q112 Opp.112) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“There has been no change to date post August 2020 with regards to the policy for household income for allocation to determine eligibility”.

3. CHINA HARBOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY (CHEC) Member

Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

In an online article carried by News Room on January 9, 2021, captioned, “the Honourable Minister tells China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC): “Stick to outstanding works deadline on Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA).”

1. Could the Honourable Minister state if the \$400M was catered for in budget 2021?
 2. What percentage of works on the project has been completed to date and the total sums paid as at August 31, 2021?
 3. What is the balance on the project as at August 31, 2021?
 4. When is the project likely to see its final completion?
 5. Could Hon. Minister kindly provide a status update on the Contractor’s performance?
 6. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that Guyanese Taxpayers do not lose anything by China Harbour Engineering Company, if they are to walk away?
- (Notice Paper No. 144 (Q113 Opp.113) published on 2021-12-10)**

ANSWERS

1. “No. Provided for by the way of Supplementary Financial Paper No. 4/2021 for the period ending December 31, 2021.

8.

2. 100% regarding works under the Agreement to vary contract for Civil Works: Extension of CJIAC. 54% regarding the additional scope of works. CHEC was paid a sum of US\$133,961,367.76.
3. The balance on the Project is US\$3,567,206.96.
4. All work under the Agreement to vary contract for Civil Works, Extension of CJIAC were completed as of December 31, 2021.
5. As of December 31, 2021, all outstanding works were completed and accepted by the Employer along with the completion of 54% of the additional work hence, CHEC's performance is considered fair.
6. The Government of Guyana has retained over 50% of the Retention Value (US\$6,900,000) which is US\$3,500,801.92.”

4. TENDER EVALUATION FOR THE AUDIT OF EXXONMOBIL POST 2017 – EXPENSES

Member Asking: **Mr. David Patterson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Natural Resources**

1. (a) Can the Honourable Minister inform this Parliament if the Tender Evaluation for the Auditors for ExxonMobil post – 2017 expenses which totalled approximately US\$ 9B was discontinued?

- (b) Can the Minister inform this Parliament who made the decision to discontinue the evaluation process?

- (c) Can the Minister inform this Parliament if the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) was informed as to the reasons why the evaluation process was discontinued? If yes, can the Minister provide this Parliament with copies of these correspondence?

(Notice Paper No. 145 (Q114 Opp.114) published on 2021-12-10)

/...9

(Notice Paper No. 146 (Q115 Opp.115) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“Mr. Speaker, the simple answer to the question is No, the cost recovery audit process is still on-going. The Government of Guyana, when we took office was alarmed at the limited work done in this regard by the previous administration and immediately commenced with international consultants and local agencies to have a number of shortcomings addressed. Currently the Government is working to answer every questionable detail with the operator and the auditor to ensure that all expenditures are justifiable and accounted for as per the terms of the agreement”.

**6. BUDGET 2021 ALLOCATIONS FOR COSTS CONDUCTING AUDITS OF
EXXON MOBIL POST - 2017 EXPENSES**

Member Asking: Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Natural Resources

Can the Minister confirm that Budget 2021 includes allocations for the costs for conducting audits on ExxonMobil post – 2017 expenses? If yes, kindly state the budgeted sums?

(Notice Paper No. 147 (Q116 Opp.116) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“Mr. Speaker, as this Government has said countless times, we are determined to ensure the greatest levels of transparency and accountability in the management of the Oil and Gas Sector. It’s in this regard, that the Government has taken the necessary steps including the budgetary provisions for the auditing of the post – 2017 costs. Yes, the Government of Guyana has ensured that the auditing process is catered for in the Budget. The budgeted amount is US\$250,000”.

7. SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR THE AUDIT OF EXXONMOBIL POST – 2017

EXPENSES

Member Asking: **Mr. David Patterson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Natural Resources**

Can the Minister provide the names of all persons, firms and companies who submitted bids to perform the audit and specific reasons why none were successful?

(Notice Paper No. 148 (Q117 Opp.117) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“Mr. Speaker, this procurement process is still ongoing, and we will not share sensitive information until the process is completed. However, the Hon. Members would be aware that minutes of all NPTAB Tender openings can be viewed online if the list of Bidders is required”.

8. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR AUDITING EXXONMOBIL US\$ 9B

Member Asking: **Mr. David Patterson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Natural Resources**

Can the Minister inform this Parliament, if the Ministry of Natural Resources has approached ExxonMobil for an extension of the deadline for auditing their US\$ 9B expenses? If yes, can the Minister provide this Parliament with such documentation including the response by ExxonMobil?

(Notice Paper No. 149 (Q118 Opp.118) published on 2021-12-10)

ANSWER

“Mr. Speaker, let me make this absolutely clear for the Honourable Members of the House and General Public, the cost recovery auditing process and by extension the verification of profit share is a Government of Guyana undertaking. This is not an ExxonMobil, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EPPGL) nor any other oil company work. This is the duty of the Government to get this done.

We are in the final stages of completing the first cost recovery audit which covers the period 1999 to 2017, a process that was left undone and found wanting by the previous administration. We are now in the process of ensuring the second cost recovery audit process can be commenced.

This second period of audit for the Stabroek Block is from 2018 to 2020. So, Mr. Speaker we are working to ensure that we have diligent process and procedures in our responsibility of costs recovery audits, which will include all active offshore blocks of Guyana”.

MOTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

- (1) The Speaker informed Members that he had received a Motion of Privilege from Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip, requesting that Hon. Christopher Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P., Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P., Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P., Hon. Vinceroy Jordan, M.P., Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., and Hon. Maureen Philadelphia, M.P., be referred to the Committee of Privileges. The Speaker stated that after careful consideration of the request he had found that a *Prima Facie Case* had been made out against the Honourable Members and, therefore, referred the matter to the Committee of Privilege.

- (2) The Speaker also informed Members that he received a Motion of Privilege from Hon. Joseph Harmon, M.P., Leader of the Opposition, requesting that some Members of the Government be referred to the Committee of Privileges. The Speaker informed Members that due to the late submission of the motion, he was unable to review the video but indicated that he would review same at the earliest time and report to the Assembly.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

**ITEM 1 - HUMAN ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANT BILL 2021 – Bill No. 19/ 2021
published on 2021-12-15**

The Minister of Health moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the donation and removal of human organs, tissues, cells and biofluids for transplantation and blood for transfusion, for their use for regenerative medicine including cell therapy, gene therapy and stem cell therapy, and other therapeutic purposes, for medical education and for scientific research purposes including stem cell research, cell explant research and cell line research, and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2021-12-16)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Nicolette Henry, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Tandika Smith, M.P.

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

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

14.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 58 were passed as printed.

Schedules 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Health, the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Bill 2021 was read a third time and **passed** as **printed**.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.14 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.34 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

ITEM 2 - POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 15/2021
published on 2012-12-10

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Powers of Attorney Act.

(Read a first time on 2021-12-13)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Education

/...15

15.

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the Powers of Attorney (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and **passed** as **printed**.

ITEM 3 - DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 16/2021
published on 2021-12-10

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Act.
(Read a first time on 2021-12-13)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Amanza Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Sanjeev Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Education

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2021 was read a third time and **passed** as **printed**.

SUSPENSION OF SO (10) 1

At 8.50 p.m., the Prime Minister moved that Standing Order No.10 (1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to continue beyond 8.00 p.m.

MOTION

ITEM 4 - NOMINEES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE FUND

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

WHEREAS Section 5(1) of the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021 provides that there shall be a Board of Directors of the Fund which shall comprise of not less than three and not more than five members who shall be appointed by the President, one of whom shall be appointed Chairperson by the President;

AND WHEREAS Section 5(2) of the said Act provides that the Directors shall be selected from among persons who have wide experience and ability in legal, financial, business, or administrative matters, one of whom shall be nominated by the National Assembly and one of whom shall be a representative of the private sector;

17.

AND WHEREAS Section 5(10) of the said Act provides that a person shall not be eligible for appointment as a Director if that person, inter alia, is a Member of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order 84(3)(b)(iii) provides that it shall be the duty of the Committee on Appointments to make recommendations to the National Assembly on any matter referred to it by the Assembly from time to time,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly refer to the Committee on Appointments the task of making a suitable recommendation to the Assembly on the candidate to be identified as the nominee of the Assembly to be appointed by the President to serve on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund in accordance with Section 5 of the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021.

(Notice Paper No. 165 (M 34 Govt 21) published on 2022-01-17)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 9.29 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 9.57 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip moved the amendments which were **put** and **carried**:

Insert after the Second AND WHEREAS Clause the following:

“AND WHEREAS Section 6(1) also requires a nominee from the National Assembly to the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee in accordance with Section 6(7)”;

18.

Delete the BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE and replace with the following:

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly refer to the Committee on Appointments the task of making suitable recommendation to the Assembly on the candidates to be identified as the nominees of the Assembly to be appointed by the President to serve on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Fund and the Public Accountability and Oversight Committee in accordance with Section 5 and Section 6 of the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021.”

Thereafter, the motion was **passed** as **amended**.

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 5 - GAS TO SHORE PROJECT

Mr. David Patterson, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the current People’s Progressive Party/Civic Administration has made a decision to select Wales for the location of the proposed on-shore facility for the Gas-to-shore Project, despite the fact that no data nor study publicly exists to support such a decision;

AND WHEREAS the Wales location will require a 110km pipeline to be laid along the seabed as well as 27km on land, which will pass through residential, commercial, and agricultural zones;

19.

AND WHEREAS it is unclear whether any study has been conducted to understand the environmental and safety risks from pipeline leaks and ruptures that may be caused by defective construction, aging, corrosion, seabed landforms, mudslides, hurricanes, faults, fractures, and seismic activities such as earthquakes and volcanoes;

AND WHEREAS no evidence of recent studies has been released publicly which, (i) evaluate the pros and cons of environmentally renewable energy alternatives, such as solar, hydropower and wind, (ii) propose an energy mix for a sustainable future and a phased manner of implementation in Guyana and (iii) investigates the economic and social implications of all energy alternatives for the citizens of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS such a location would exacerbate the safety and environmental risks effected by the worsening marine traffic congestion;

AND WHEREAS the publicly stated costs for the pipeline will make this the single largest infrastructure project in the country's history,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the following be conducted to inform the Government's decision making, in the best interest of the prudent spending of our Taxpayers dollars; and in being good stewards of the nation's health, safety and the environment: -

Comprehensive studies to inform the decision, be conducted by Independent international recognised Consultants. Scope of studies should include: -

20.

- (a) Investigation to understand the geological, environmental, and safety risks with mitigative actions, from pipeline leaks, ruptures and movements that may be caused by defective construction, aging, corrosion, seabed landforms, mudslides, hurricanes, tsunami, faults, fractures, and seismic activities such as earthquakes and volcanoes;
- (b) Analyses of the available technology for real time monitoring of the deep-water pipeline to ensure its integrity and reliable detection of subsurface leaks; and the environmental, safety and health risks with mitigative actions associated with accommodating the gaps in technology;
- (c) Investigate the health, safety, and environmental risks with mitigative actions posed by the shallow draft and worsening marine traffic congestion at the mouth of the Demerara River; and
- (d) An analysis of the economic, social, and environmental renewable alternatives such as solar, hydropower and wind, including an energy mix with phasing, thereof; consistent with our overall effort to achieve a low carbon economy and compliance with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That when completed these studies be submitted to the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources of the Parliament, which shall after examination, present a Report to this Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Gas-to-Shore Project's final decision be put on hold until the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources presents its Report to the Assembly for debate and approval.

(Notice Paper No. 153 (M 33 Opp 5) published on 2022-01-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

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

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

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

Hon. Shurwayne Holder, M.P.

Hon. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

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

At 12.43 a.m. while Hon. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Lenox Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly took the Chair.

Hon. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 1.16 a.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Hon. Vickram Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources also spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Hon. David Patterson, M.P., replied.

STANDING ORDER 39(2)

At 2.13 a.m. the Prime Minister under Standing Order 39(2), concluded the debate on the motion.

The motion was then **put** and **negatived** on the following division:

DECLINED TO VOTE

Mr. Shuman

FOR

Mr. Sears

Mr. Figueira

Mr. Sinclair

Mr. Jaiprashad

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Ramsaroop

Mrs. Flue-Bess

Mr. Mahipaul

Mr. Holder

Mr. Cox

Mr. Henry

Ms. Fernandes

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

AGAINST

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

Mr. McCoy

Mr. A. Persaud

Mr. Indar

Ms. Rodrigues

Ms. Parag

Mr. Ramson

Dr. V. Persaud

Mr. Croal

Mr. Dharamlall

Mr. Bharrat

23.

Dr. Cummings	Mr. Hamilton
Dr. Henry	Ms. Sukhai
Mrs. Hastings-Williams	Mr. Mustapha
Mr. Trotman	Ms. Manickchand
Mr. Forde	Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ramjattan	Bishop Edghill
	Mr. Todd
	Ms. Teixeira
	Mr. Nandlall
	Mr. Phillips

1

28

32

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.37 a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022.

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

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

24th, January 2022.

