

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 41ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2008
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent – on leave)

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (42)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)

(ii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne) Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P., (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo), Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

*The Hon S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

/...2

*Non-elected Minister

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of Public Service (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional
Development (Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of
Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. B. H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Mr. Albert A. Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

***Non-Elected Minister**

****Elected Member from the United Force**

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

***Non-elected Member

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms. Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

(ii) **Alliance for Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Latchmin Budhan Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

OFFICERS (2)

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.07p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Absence of Speaker of the National Assembly

The Deputy Speaker, performing the functions of Speaker, informed the Assembly that the Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., Speaker of the National Assembly, had asked to be excused from that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues of Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2008.
(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

(3) By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services):

(i) Second Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services.

(Circulated)

(ii) Third Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS**Vicious and Brutal attack on the people of Bartica on Sunday, February 17, 2008**

The Minister of Home Affairs made a statement with respect to the vicious and brutal attack on the people of Bartica on Sunday, February 17, 2008.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)**

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2008 at its sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 22nd February, 2008.

(Notice Paper No. 225 (M63 Govt 38) published on 2008-02-13)

The motion was then put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTION****BUDGET FOR 2008**

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2008.

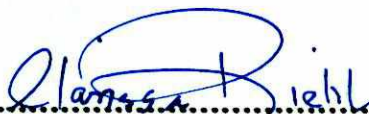
The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2008 of the total sum of \$106,506,904,000 excluding \$12,748,184,000 which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)

The motion was then proposed.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Thursday, 28th February, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.20 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 28th February, 2008.



.....
MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.,

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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

22nd February, 2008.

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

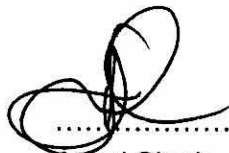
WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenue and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2008 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2008-02-22

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 2008, of a total sum of **one hundred and six billion, five hundred and six million, nine hundred and four thousand dollars (\$106,506,904,000)**, excluding **twelve billion, seven hundred and forty-eight million, one hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars (\$12,748,184,000)** which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.



.....
Ashni Singh
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2007-02-22

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
01-12	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTOR		
01	OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT		
	Programmes		
	011. Head Office Administration	1,387,422	311,936
	012. Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)	260,215	0
	014. Public Policy and Planning	190	0
	Total	1,647,827	311,936
02	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER		
	Programme		
	021. Prime Minister's Secretariat	127,505	5,052,500
	Total	127,505	5,052,500
03	MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
	Programmes		
	031. Ministry Administration	10,796,466	8,754,197
	032. Government Accounting Administration	2,192,763	12,600
	Total	12,989,229	8,766,797
04	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS		
	Programmes		
	041. Ministry Administration	731,515	14,000
	042. Foreign Relations	1,572,022	9,887
	043. Foreign Trade and International Cooperation	91,753	0
	Total	2,395,290	23,887
07	PARLIAMENT OFFICE		
	Programme		
	071. National Assembly	501,567	9,000
	Total	501,567	9,000
08	OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL		
	Auditor General		46,792
09	PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION		
	Programme		
	091. Public and Police Service Commission	40,145	1,500
	Total	40,145	1,500
10	TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION		
	Programme		
	101. Teaching Service Commission	47,008	4,000
	Total	47,008	4,000
11	ELECTIONS COMMISSION		
	Programmes		
	111. Elections Commission	1,881,377	20,005
	112. Elections Administration	784,958	5,750
	Total	2,666,335	25,755
13	MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
	Programme		
	131. Main Office	47,919	0
	132. Ministry Administration	33,929	1,900
	133. Regional Development	125,291	895,944
	Total	207,139	897,844
	Subtotal	20,622,045	15,140,011

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
14	PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY Programme 141. Public Service Management Total	 238,491 238,491	 13,500 13,500
15	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation		4,500
16	MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS 161. Amerindian Development Total	 210,721 210,721	 183,851 183,851
20 - 29	ECONOMIC SERVICES SECTOR		
21	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Programmes 211. Ministry Administration 212. Crops and Livestock Support Services 213. Fisheries 214. Hydrometeorological Services Total	 901,461 838,607 71,996 139,362 1,951,426	 1,083,500 675,914 15,000 336,000 2,110,414
23	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY Programmes 231. Main Office 232. Ministry Administration 233. Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs Total	 333,407 47,178 41,037 421,622	 35,099 7,431 231,825 274,355
30 - 39	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR		
31	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS Programmes 311. Ministry Administration 312. Public Works 313. Communication and Transport Total	 209,065 362,710 41,249 613,024	 29,300 7,883,386 136,000 8,048,686
40 - 49	SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR		
41	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Programmes 411. Main Office 412. National Education Policy - Implementation & Supervision 413. Ministry Administration 414. Training and Development 415. Education Delivery Total	 339,773 96,247 846,276 570,796 3,942,280 5,795,372	 11,870 1,000 3,780 140,200 2,123,400 2,280,250
44	MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS Programmes 441. Ministry Administration 442. Culture 443. Youth 444. Sports Total	 145,325 518,466 306,414 128,181 1,098,386	 13,800 333,850 22,000 273,350 643,000
	Subtotal	10,329,042	13,558,556

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
45	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER Programme 451. Housing and Water Total	489,780 489,780	4,696,400 4,696,400
46	GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION Programme 461. Public Hospital Total	2,692,338 2,692,338	136,500 136,500
47	MINISTRY OF HEALTH Programmes 471. Ministry Administration 472. Diseases Control 473. Primary Health Care Services 474. Regional and Clinical Services 475. Health Sciences Education 476. Standards and Technical Services 477. Rehabilitation Services Total	587,069 413,936 320,240 1,386,090 296,845 194,054 161,484 3,359,718	4,170 579,212 351,422 1,820,919 2,392 1,758 5,540 2,765,413
48	MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY Programmes 481. Ministry Administration 482. Social Services 483. Labour Administration Total	119,036 3,951,557 179,227 4,249,820	356,500 14,600 1,000 372,100
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION			
51	MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS Programmes 511. Secretariat Services 512. Guyana Police Force 513. Guyana Prison Service 514. Police Complaints Authority 515. Guyana Fire Service 516. General Register Office Total	154,701 4,474,373 808,144 5,325 379,460 73,728 5,895,731	771,000 430,000 63,100 1,400 64,000 4,000 1,333,500
52	MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS Programmes 521. Main Office 522. Ministry Administration 523. Attorney General's Chambers 524. Office of the State Solicitor 525. Deeds Registry Total	13,600 33,149 71,008 10,410 44,673 172,840	313,000 4,000 4,500 3,000 11,000 335,500
53	GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE Programme 531. Defence Headquarters Total	4,350,446 4,350,446	699,000 699,000
55	SUPREME COURT Programmes 551. Supreme Court of Judicature 552. Magistrates' Department Total	272,013 254,298 526,311	57,000 25,500 82,500
	Subtotal	21,736,984	10,420,913

GS'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
56	PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS Programme 561. Public Prosecutions Total	 65,972 65,972	 4,000 4,000
57	OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Programme 571. Ombudsman Total	 3,585 3,585	 0 0
58	PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL Programme 581. Public Service Appellate Tribunal Total	 8,050 8,050	 3,500 3,500
70-89	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR		
71	REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI Programmes 711. Regional Administration and Finance 712. Public Works 713. Education Delivery 714. Health Services Total	 66,665 153,420 462,875 167,448 850,408	 14,950 41,325 51,700 35,000 142,975
72	REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM Programmes 721. Regional Administration and Finance 722. Agriculture 723. Public Works 724. Education Delivery 725. Health Services Total	 82,231 159,643 76,349 731,306 286,134 1,335,663	 6,500 98,700 85,600 35,250 23,350 249,400
73	REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA Programmes 731. Regional Administration and Finance 732. Agriculture 733. Public Works 734. Education Delivery 735. Health Services Total	 125,069 176,057 86,070 1,091,874 432,790 1,911,860	 6,000 35,000 85,500 42,000 34,000 202,500
74	REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA Programmes 741. Regional Administration and Finance 742. Agriculture 743. Public Works 744. Education Delivery 745. Health Services Total	 89,010 129,898 161,234 1,455,490 202,225 2,037,857	 3,000 30,000 38,500 46,000 22,700 140,200
75	REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE Programmes 751. Regional Administration 752. Agriculture 753. Public Works 754. Education Delivery 755 Health Services Total	 39,682 80,100 100,077 696,904 191,034 1,107,797	 11,600 46,000 71,307 32,000 32,378 193,285
	Subtotal	7,321,192	935,860

GS'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
76	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE</p> <p>Programmes</p> 761. Regional Administration and Finance 762. Agriculture 763. Public Works 764. Education Delivery 765. Health Services Total	 62,244 318,180 107,766 1,370,501 665,303 2,523,994	 8,725 88,800 84,800 44,100 34,800 261,225
77	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI</p> <p>Programmes</p> 771. Regional Administration and Finance 772. Public Works 773. Education Delivery 774. Health Services Total	 80,512 105,195 443,849 205,544 835,100	 9,950 31,000 31,800 24,000 96,750
78	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI</p> <p>Programmes</p> 781. Regional Administration and Finance 782. Public Works 783. Education Delivery 784. Health Services Total	 34,952 69,921 195,377 88,814 389,064	 13,128 32,500 39,300 15,800 100,728
79	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO</p> <p>Programmes</p> 791. Regional Administration and Finance 792. Agriculture 793. Public Works 794. Education Delivery 795. Health Services Total	 63,428 10,080 75,779 377,260 147,222 673,769	 12,048 14,000 85,539 54,100 24,570 190,257
80	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE</p> <p>Programmes</p> 801. Regional Administration and Finance 802. Public Works 803. Education Delivery 804. Health Services Total	 91,227 99,466 871,818 159,403 1,221,914	 5,600 68,000 40,500 35,400 149,500
	Subtotal GRAND TOTAL	5,643,841 65,653,104	798,460 40,853,800