

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 75<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**  
**(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)**

**(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. 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 Foreign Affairs

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

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

2.

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

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

\*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, 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

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

\*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

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

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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

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

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**\*Non-Elected Minister**

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

3.

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)

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, 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

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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P. (Absent)

Rev. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

**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. (Absent)

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

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

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**\*\*\*Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary**

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

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.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

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

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

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

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)

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

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

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

**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 2.17p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

1. **LAMA CONSERVANCY**

**Member Asking:** Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) What were the daily levels of the Lama Conservancy for the entire month of December 2008?
  
- (ii) On which days, in all of December, 2008 and to date in January, 2009, was the Maduni #1 sluice opened and, in the same period, on what dates was the Maduni #2 sluice opened to relieve the high Lama level into the Mahaica, as was recommended by Moot M<sup>c</sup> Donald in 2005?

**(Notice Paper No. 359 (Q267 Opp252) published on 2009-01-23)**

**Answers:**

Please see answers at Appendices 1 and 2.

2. **WITHDRAWAL OF THE PREFERENTIAL PRICE FOR SUGAR BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Member Asking:** Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) How much has been paid to the Government of Guyana by the European Union, as compensation for the lost of revenue, due to the withdrawal of the preferential price for sugar by 2009?

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- (ii) Whether it was contemplated that a proportion of the compensation, received from the European Union, would be paid to the Guyana cane farmers who are also adversely affected financially by the withdrawal of the EU subsidy?
- (iii) If yes, how much has been determined to be paid to the Guyana cane farmers?  
(Notice Paper No. 360 (Q268 Opp253) published on 2009-01-23)

**Answers**

- (i) Please see answer at Appendix 3.
- (ii) and (iii) Resources for the Accompanying Measures are channeled as Budgetary support which are then utilized for the general improvements of the agricultural infrastructure and other types of support to the farming community, including cane farmers.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET SPEECH 2009 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2009**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2009-02-09)

8.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

**Mr. Basil Williams**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

**Mrs. Volda Lawrence**

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.47p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

**The Minister of Home Affairs**

**Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan**

**The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce**

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 8.20p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.42p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

**Dr. George Norton**

**The Minister of Amerindian Affairs**

**Mr. Desmond Fernandes**

**Mr. Mohamed F. Khan**



**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11.00p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly as adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

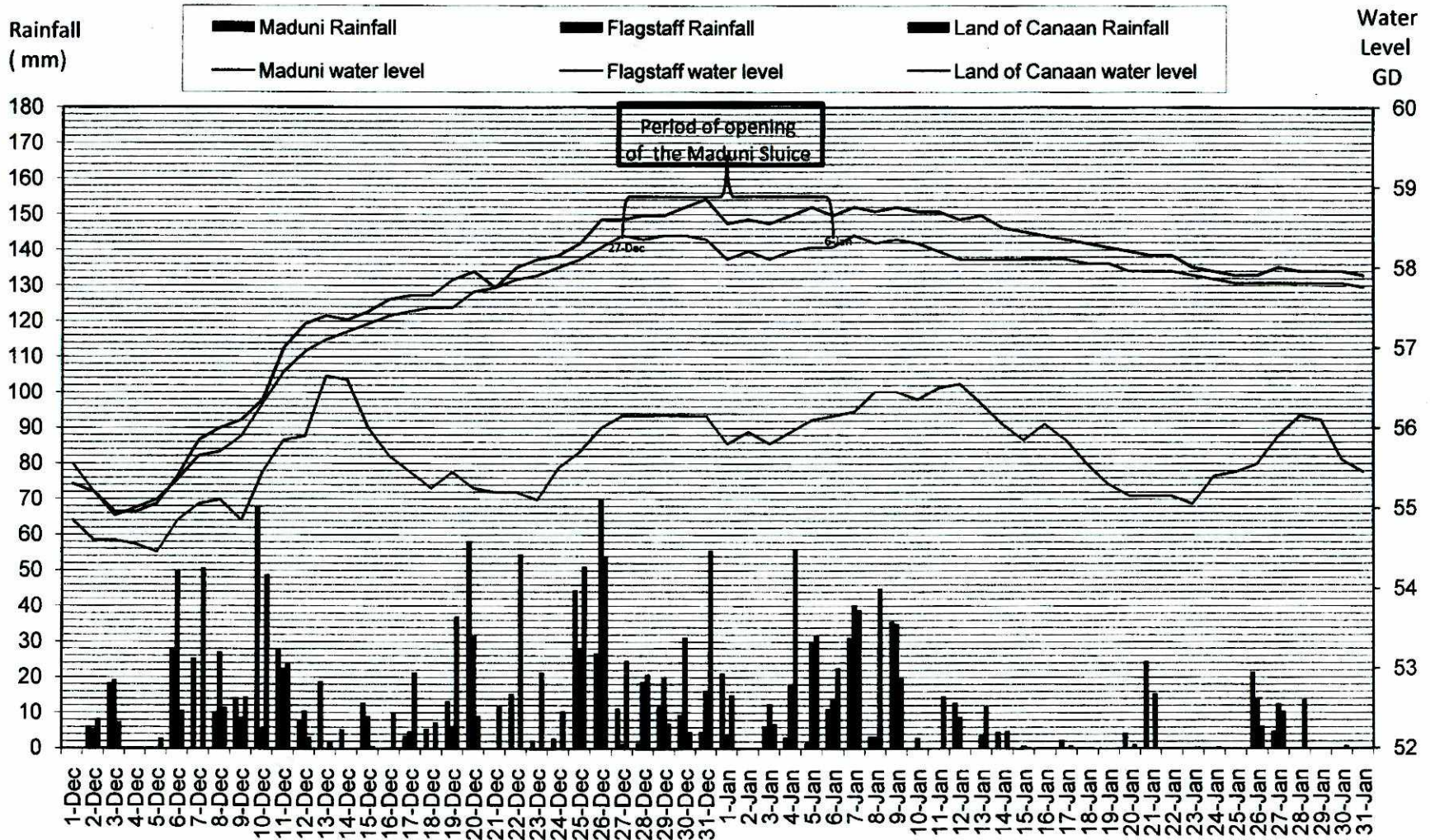
  
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**HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.**

**Appendix 3: Daily Water Level and Rainfall at the East Demerara Water Conservancy (December 2008 - January 2009)**



## APPENDIX 2

### Projects Implemented from January 2005 to Present

Item No	Name of Project	Year Implemented
1	Rehabilitation of Cunia Relief Channel, EDWC.	2005
2	Construction of revetment at Cunia	2005
3	Dredging & Cleaning Work Waterway Lot 1-Kofi	2005
4	Dredging & Cleaning Work Waterway Lot 2-Cunia	2005
5	Dredging & Cleaning Work Waterway Lot 3-Scheme	2005
6	Leasing of Maintenance Equipment Lot 2b	2005
7	Leasing of Maintenance Equipment Lot 2c	2005
8	Rehabilitate outfall channel at Land of Canaan 5 door sluice	2005
9	Rehabilitate inlet channel at Land of Canaan 5 door sluice.	2005
10	Rehabilitate Cuffy Sluice, Friendship EBD	2005
11	Access Road to Flag Staff	2005
12	<b>NEW KOFI Relief Channel-</b> Rehabilitation of Kofi Inlet Sluice, Construction of CNC Regulator 'Drainage Channel and EDWC waterway.	2005
13	Construction of Intake Structure at Enmore	2007
14	Installation of New Door and lifting mechanism at Kofi relief sluice on the Conservancy End	2008
15	Construction of 450' Scour Protection at Kofi Relief outfall Channel	2008
16	Construction of 200 ft Revetment at Shanks, EDWC	2008
17	Clearing of 9 Miles of Kofi Waterway	2007-2008
18	Re-activation of 10.5 Miles of Annandale water path	2006-2008
19	Buttressing of 13 miles of embankment between Flagstaff and Annandale	2006-2008
	<b>PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR EDWC</b>	
20	Three super long reach and one short reach excavator	2006-2008
21	Four Uni-float Pontoons	2007-2008
22	Two Punts	2007
23	Purchase of aluminium and airboat.	2006 & 2008
	<b>ON-GOING PROJECT</b>	
24	<b>Conservancy Adaptation Project:</b>  <b>Component 1-</b> Pre-investment studies for engineering design works. <b>Component 2-</b> Investment in specific adaptation measures (Lama Sluices acquisition of equipment, 1 pontoon and 1 long Reach Excavator) <b>Component 3-</b> Institutional Strengthening (NDIA & CDC)	2008-2010
25	Improvement Works at Cunia (Re-Alignment of Discharge Channel and Re-Activate Sluice)	2009-2011
26	East Demerara Water Conservancy Northern Relief	2009-2011
27	Cleaning and Opening of New Waterways and Buttressing of embankment between Flagstaff - Annandale and Flagstaff-Maduni.	2006-Present

**APPENDIX 1**

**Daily Water Levels of the East Demerara Water Conservancy  
(Period: 2008/12/01-2009/01/31)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Water Levels</b>		
	<b>Maduni GD (Feet)</b>	<b>Flagstaff GD (Feet)</b>	<b>Land of Caanan GD (Feet)</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2008</b>			
08/12/01	55.55	55.30	54.85
08/12/02	55.20	55.20	54.60
08/12/03	54.90	54.95	54.60
08/12/04	55.00	54.95	54.55
08/12/05	55.10	55.05	54.45
08/12/06	55.35	55.40	54.85
08/12/07	55.65	55.85	55.05
08/12/08	55.70	56.00	55.10
08/12/09	55.90	56.10	54.85
08/12/10	56.30	56.35	55.45
08/12/11	56.70	57.00	55.85
08/12/12	56.95	57.30	55.90
08/12/13	57.10	57.40	56.65
08/12/14	57.20	57.35	56.60
08/12/15	57.30	57.45	56.80
08/12/16	57.40	57.60	55.65
08/12/17	57.45	57.65	55.45
08/12/18	57.50	57.65	55.25
08/12/19	57.50	57.85	55.45
08/12/20	57.70	57.95	55.25
08/12/21	57.75	57.75	55.20
08/12/22	57.85	58.00	55.20
08/12/23	57.90	58.10	55.10
08/12/24	58.00	58.15	55.50
08/12/25	58.10	58.30	55.70
08/12/26	58.25	58.60	56.00
08/12/27	58.40	58.60	56.15
08/12/28	58.35	58.65	56.15
08/12/29	58.40	58.65	56.16
08/12/30	58.40	58.75	56.15
08/12/31	58.35	58.85	56.15

## APPENDIX 1

Daily Water Levels of the East Demerara Water Conservancy  
(Period: 2008/12/01-2009/01/31)

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Water Levels</b>		
	<b>Maduni GD (Feet)</b>	<b>Flagstaff GD (Feet)</b>	<b>Land of Caanan GD (Feet)</b>
<b>JANUARY 2009</b>			
09/01/01	58.10	58.55	55.80
09/01/02	58.20	58.60	55.95
09/01/03	58.10	58.55	55.80
09/01/04	58.20	58.65	55.95
09/01/05	58.25	58.75	56.10
09/01/06	58.25	58.65	56.15
09/01/07	58.40	58.75	56.20
09/01/08	58.30	58.70	56.45
09/01/09	58.35	58.75	56.45
09/01/10	58.30	58.70	56.35
09/01/11	58.20	58.70	56.50
09/01/12	58.10	58.60	56.55
09/01/13	58.10	58.65	56.30
09/01/14	58.10	58.50	56.05
09/01/15	58.10	58.45	55.85
09/01/16	58.10	58.40	56.05
09/01/17	58.10	58.35	55.85
09/01/18	58.05	58.30	55.55
09/01/19	58.05	58.25	55.30
09/01/20	57.95	58.20	55.15
09/01/21	57.95	58.15	55.15
09/01/22	57.95	58.15	55.15
09/01/23	57.90	58.00	55.05
09/01/24	57.85	57.95	55.40
09/01/25	57.80	57.90	55.45
09/01/26	57.80	57.90	55.55
09/01/27	57.80	58.00	55.90
09/01/28	57.80	57.95	56.15
09/01/29	57.80	57.95	56.10
09/01/30	57.80	57.95	55.60
09/01/31	57.75	57.90	55.45

**Table 1- Operation levels of Maduni Sluice (2008/12/27-2009/01/06)**

Date	Status (Open/Close)	Water Level GD (Feet)
2008/12/27	Open	58.40
2009/01/06	Close	58.10

The Recommended Operational Levels for Flood Relief Structures as prescribed in EDWC Water Level Management Manual, TFIR, 2005.

Status	Water Levels at Lama (GD (Feet))	Water Levels at Lama GD (Meters)	Land Of Caanan	Maduni	Lama # 1	Lama # 2	Cunia	Kofi
1	56.00	17.07	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
2	56.50	17.22	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
3	56.75	17.30	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
4	57.00	17.37	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
5	57.50	17.53	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
6	58.00	17.68	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open
7	58.25	17.75	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open

(EDWC Water Level Management Manual, TFIR, 2005)

The water level management manual for the EDWC was prepared in June 2005 following the floods in January of the same year. During the designing of the manual, the EDWC only had the Land of Canaan 5 doors, Lama No. 1 & 2, Maduni sluice and Cunia operating at a very low efficiency. Since 2005, several rehabilitation and new works have been undertaken within the EDWC aimed at improving the integrity of the conservancy. Some of the major works are listed in Appendix 2.

Such improvement works have increased the efficiency in the operation of the conservancy. Specifically, discharge efficiency has improved at Land of Canaan and Cunia while the new Kofi relief structure increases the western discharge with an additional discharging capacity of 500 cu.sec. The overall improvement has allowed for an increase freeboard level during flood conditions where by opening of the Eastern relief structure at Maduni at a level of 58.40 GD to drain excess water to the Atlantic through the Mahaica River.

# APPENDIX I

## NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2006-2009)

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### NOTICE PAPER NO. 359

#### Question No. (Q267 Opp 252)

Member Answering: Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Robert M. Persaud, MBA, MP

#### Question

#### LAMA CONSERVANCY

- (i) What were the daily levels of the Lama Conservancy for the entire month of December, 2008?
- (ii) On which days, in all of December, 2008 and to date in January, 2009, was the Maduni #1 sluice opened and, in the same period, on what dates was the Maduni #2 sluice opened to relieve the high Lama level into the Mahaica, as was recommended by Mott MacDonald in 2005?

(Notice Paper No. 359 (Q 267 Opp 252) published on 2009-01-23)

Date Received: 2009-01-15

Date for Order paper: 2009-02-14

#### RESPONSE to Notice Paper: No. 359

- (i) The Daily water level of the Lama Conservancy/East Demerara Water Conservancy for the period December 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009 is detailed in appendix 1&3.
- (ii) There is only one Maduni Sluice. The Maduni Sluice was opened on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 and Closed on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. (See Table 1)



# APPENDIX 3

## • Updated Schedule of Disbursements - EU General Budget Support, Bridging Programme, Sugar Sector BS 2004 - 2008

Budget Supp. 2004-06	Amount €	Amount G\$	Estimated disbursement dates	Date of Receipt	Comments
Fixed Tranche	5,999,982.68	1,622,284,917	December 2004	December 12, 2004	
Fixed Tranche	2,400,000	572,502,720	June 2005	July 27, 2005	
	760,000	187,417,482		August 9 2005	
Variable Tranche	5,548,222.50	1,344,533,770	December 2005	January 12, 2006	
Variable Tranche	3,277,500	865,703,806	December 2006	December 29, 2006	
	**661,819.51	183,720,335		August 10 2007	
		4,776,163,030			
Fixed Tranche	Amount € 1,395,959.65	485,114,154.00	June 2006	April 4, 2006	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,261,277,184</b>			
	<b>Amount €</b>	<b>Amount G\$</b>	<b>Estimated disbursement dates</b>	<b>Date of Receipt</b>	
Fixed Tranche	6,588,782,500	1,686,211,922,000	Jan-08	21-Feb-08	Part of Flex tranche (rate 292.76)
Fixed Tranche-FLEX	6,130,000.00		Dec. 08	Not paid to date	Revised Tranche req. Oct 16
Variable Tranche	6,500,000.00		Dec-08	Not paid to date	Tranche requested Oct 16, 08
	<b>Amount €</b>	<b>Amount G\$</b>	<b>Estimated disbursement dates</b>	<b>Date of Receipt</b>	
2006 Fixed Tranche	3,269,900.00	984,370,761	Jun-07	23-Nov-07	Paid (€ exchange rate:301.04)
2006 Variable Tranche	1,820,000.00	514,876,663	Apr-08	30-May-08	Paid (€ exchange rate: 264.9)
2007 FLEX Tranche	3,312,500.00	1,245,021,632	Apr-08	09-Jun-08	Paid (€ exchange rate: 321.80)
2007 Variable Tranche	6,606,250.00	1,880,735,372	Oct-08	28-Dec-08	50% of tranche paid
	<b>24,718,650</b>	<b>1,622,147,940</b>			<b>50% rate=284,690,700.47</b>

\*\* Half of deferred tranche for housing indicators, less deductions made by the Delegation for closure of New Amsterdam and Pouderoyn water projects.

Updated 13 January 2009