

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 20TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001-2002) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2002
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government (37)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

- The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
- * The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs
- * The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- ** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Absent)
- The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health
- Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip
- Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)
- Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
- Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.
- Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.
- Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.
- Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water
- Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

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Members of the Opposition (30)

(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Mr. Winston S. 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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomerook/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) ✓

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Miss Myrna'E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) **Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)**

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) **Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

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

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to the following Members:

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh,

Mrs. Rajkumarie Bancroft, and

Mr. Ravindra Dev.

(ii) **Mr. Kenneth C. King - Vacation of Office of Sergeant-At-Arms**

The Speaker made the following announcement:

"Hon. Members, Mr. Kenneth Carnegie King, Sergeant-At-Arms, has proceeded on leave and will be vacating the Office of Sergeant-At-Arms on the expiration of his leave.

5.

Mr. King has been serving as Sergeant-At-Arms since 1976. Prior to becoming Sergeant-At-Arms, he served during World War II from 1942 to 1947. From 1948 to 1951 he was a Field Checker at the Mahaicony/Abary Rice Development Company. He was a Messenger at the Parliament Office from 1953 to 1961, a Bailiff at the Magistrate's Office from 1961 to 1962, Collecting Officer at the Magistrate's Office from 1962 to 1963 and a Marshall at the Supreme Court from 1963 to 1976.

His total Public Service, beginning 30th September, 1942, at the age of 17 years, to this year, spreads over a period of 60 years.

Mr. King performed his duties as Sergeant-At-Arms efficiently and with great dignity and decorum. He was a very loyal, reliable and trustworthy officer, and in spite of his age he was regularly and punctually at work.

I am sure that Members would wish me to place on record our grateful thanks to Mr. King for the long and dedicated service which he gave to the Government and more particularly to our Parliament in this very Chamber. We extend our best wishes to him.

The Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Dhanram Kungbeharry, is performing the duties of Sergeant-At-Arms."

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) ✓ By the Prime Minister:

Audited Financial Statements (2) of the National Frequency Management Unit for the years 1999 and 2000.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2002.

(Circulated)

✓(ii) Financial Paper No. 1/2002 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$276,590,960, for the period 10th November, 2001 to 31st December, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

(iii) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2001.

(Circulated)

✓(iv) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 2) Order 2001.

(Circulated)

(v) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2002 (No. 1 of 2002).

(Circulated)

✓(vi) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 2002 (No. 4 of 2002).

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) **ENERGY SECTOR (HARMONISATION OF LAWS) BILL 2002 - Bill No. 1/2002**

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

7.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to harmonise laws governing regulatory functions in the restructured electricity and energy sectors.

(2) **GUYANA TOURISM AUTHORITY BILL 2002 - Bill No. 2/2002**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the incorporation of the Authority to define its functions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(3) **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2002 - Bill No. 3/2002**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - BUDGET FOR 2002 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2002

As the Minister of Finance rose, the Members of the Opposition withdrew from the Chamber.

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

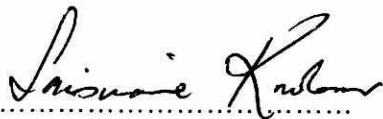
WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

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 2002 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2002-03-15;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 2002, of a total sum of **fifty-six billion, five million, nine hundred and forty-four thousand dollars (\$56,005,944,000)**, excluding **twelve billion, eight hundred and sixty-one million, four hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$12,861,430,000)** 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.



Saisnarine Kowlessar
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2002-03-15

8.

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 2002.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2002 of the total sum of \$56,005,944,000 excluding \$12,861,430,000 which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The Minister read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Monday, 25th March, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.13 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 25th March, 2002.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

15th March, 2002