

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2001-2002) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> 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

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)

\* 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

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) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)

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 - Pomereroon/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) (Absent)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

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

**Members of the Opposition (30)****(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

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

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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

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)

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)

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.

**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**

**Leave**

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

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Dr. Dagleish Joseph

Mrs. Sheila Holder.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****MOTION****MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2002 (2002 BUDGET)**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2002.

At this stage, the Members of the People's National Congress/Reform withdrew from the Chamber.

**In Committee of Supply**

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:-

**01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

- 1 Head Office Administration
- 2 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
- 4 Amerindian Development
- 5 Public Policy and Planning
- Div. 501 Office of the President
- Div. 502 Office of the President - El Nino Emergency

**09- PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS**

- 1 Public and Police Service Commissions
- Div. 505 - Code 25002 Public Service Commission

**10- TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION**

- 1 Teaching Service Commission
- Div. 505 - Code 25008 Teaching Service Commission

**11- ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

- 1 Elections Secretariat
- 2 National, Regional and Local Government Elections
- Div. 505 - Code 25010 Guyana Elections Commission

**14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY**

- 1 Public Service Management
- Div. 549 - Public Service Ministry

**16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT**

- 1 Amerindian Development
- Div 551 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

**53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE**

- 1 Defence Headquarters

**57- OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

- 1 Ombudsman
- Div. 505 - Code 25005 Office of the Ombudsman

**58- PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

- 1 Public Service Appellate Tribunal
- Div. 505 - Code 25009 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

**02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

- 1 Prime Minister's Secretariat

**31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Public Works
- 3 Transport and Planning
- Div. 517 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -  
Air Transport Reform Programme
- Div. 518 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -  
Bridges
- Div. 519 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -  
Sea Defences
- Div. 520 Ministry of Public Works and Communications
- Div. 521 Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction,  
Rehabilitation and Studies
- Div. 548 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -  
Bridges/Roads

**07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

- 1 National Assembly
- Div. 505 - Code 25003 Parliament Building

**15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

- 1 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation
- Div. 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and  
International Co-operation

**04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Foreign Relations
- 3 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation
- Div. 506 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**44 – MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT**

- 1 Ministry Administration
  - 2 Culture
  - 3 Youth
  - 4 Sports
  - 5 Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- Div. 541 Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

**41 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

- 1 Main Office
  - 2 National Education Policy –  
Implementation and Supervision
  - 3 Ministry Administration
  - 4 Training and Development
  - 5 Education Delivery
- Div. 542 Ministry of Education – Primary Education  
Improvement Programme
- Div. 543 Ministry of Education
- Div. 544 Ministry of Education – Secondary School  
Reform Project

Div. 547 Guyana Education Access Project

**13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 1 Main Office
  - 2 Ministry Administration
  - 3 Regional Development
- Div. 527 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

**71 – REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
  - 3 Public Works
  - 4 Education Delivery
  - 5 Health Services
- Div. 531 Region 1: Barima/Waini

**72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
  - 2 Agriculture
  - 3 Public Works
  - 4 Education Delivery
  - 5 Health Services
- Div. 532 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam

**73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
  - 2 Agriculture
  - 3 Public Works
  - 4 Education Delivery
  - 5 Health Services
- Div. 533 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara

**74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

**75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

**76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

**77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

**78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Public Works
- 3 Education Delivery
- 4 Health Services

Div. 538 Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni

**79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 539 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

**80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE**

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 540 Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice

**03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

- 1 Ministry Administration
  - 2 Accountant General's Department
- Div. 526 Ministry of Finance

**08 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

- 1 Office of the Auditor General
- Div. 505 - Codes 12001, 25001, 44001 Auditor General

**90 - PUBLIC DEBT**

- 1 Public Debt

**45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER**

- 1 Housing and Water
- Div. 523 Ministry of Housing and Water
- Div. 524 Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement Project
- Div. 525 Ministry of Housing and Water - Georgetown Remedial and Sewerage Project
- Div. 530 Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing

**21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

- 1 Ministry Administration
  - 2 Crops and Livestock Support Services
  - 3 Fisheries
  - 4 Hydrometeorological Services
- Div. 508 Ministry of Agriculture
- Div. 509 Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project
- Div. 510 Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III
- Div. 512 Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery

**51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

- 1 Secretariat Services
  - 2 Guyana Police Force
  - 3 Guyana Prison Service
  - 4 Police Complaints Authority
  - 5 Guyana Fire Service
  - 7 General Register Office
- Div. 507 Ministry of Home Affairs

**48-MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL SECURITY**

- 1 Ministry Administration
  - 2 Social Service
  - 3 Labour Administration
- Div. 545 Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security
- Div. 546 Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security-SIMAP

**52 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

- 1 Main Office
  - 2 Ministry Administration
  - 3 Attorney General's Chambers
  - 4 Office of the State Solicitor
  - 5 Deeds Registry
- Div. 514 Ministry of Legal Affairs

**55 – SUPREME COURT**

- 1 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 2 Magistrates' Department

**56 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

- 1 Public Prosecutions
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25007)

**23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

- 1 Main Office
  - 2 Ministry Administration
  - 3 Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs
- Div. 529 Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry

**46 – GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION**

- 1 Public Hospital

**47 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

- 1 Ministry Administration
  - 2 Diseases Control
  - 3 Primary Health Care Services
  - 4 Regional and Clinical Services
  - 5 Health Sciences Education
  - 6 Standards and Technical Services
  - 7 Rehabilitation Services
- Div. 516 Ministry of Health

**Assembly resumed.**

The Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had completed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2002 and had approved of them as printed.

The motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2002 was then put and carried

**BILL - First, Second and Third Readings****APPROPRIATION BILL 2002 - Bill No. 5/2002**

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2002 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:-

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2002 estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

- (i) **THANKS TO THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**
- (ii) **EASTER AND PHAGWAH GREETINGS**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government -

- (a) Expressed thanks to Mr. Frank Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly, for the assistance and guidance given in respect of the Estimates and also for his services rendered for over half a century, and
- (b) Extended greetings to the Christian and Hindu communities on the occasions of Easter and Phagwah, respectively.

The Speaker also associated himself with the remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3.05 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



**HARI N. RAMKARRAN**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> March, 2002.**