

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 3RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2003
IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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 (Absent - on leave) performing the functions of the Office of President)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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 (Absent)

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

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)
- * The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)
- * 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)
Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
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. 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)
Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

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

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)

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)

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

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

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

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) (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

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. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:

The Hon. Prime Minister - performing the functions of the Office of President,

The Minister in the Office of President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs,

Mr. Donald Ramotar,

and

Mr. Ravindra Dev, for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order No. 3 of 2003.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2003.

(Circulated)

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER -
Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a)**

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2003 at the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 28th March, 2003.

(Notice Paper No. 38(M11 Govt10) published 2003-03- 24)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

**BUDGET FOR 2003 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF
EXPENDITURE FOR 2003**

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 2003.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003 of the total sum of \$62,866,002,000 excluding \$10,080,231,000 which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

While the Minister was reading the Budget Speech, the Speaker suspended the sitting due to an interruption by some members of the PNC/R and their supporters who were conducting a picketing exercise within the precincts of the Convention Centre.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

INTERRUPTION OF SITTING BY SEVERAL PNC/R MEMBERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

The Speaker made the following statement:-

“Hon. Members,

The conduct of those gathered outside the door of this Parliament Chamber was extremely disgraceful and an attack of a most extraordinary nature on Parliament, the visible symbol of our democracy. Those persons outside are seeking to close down this symbol by desecrating it with their intolerance.

What is most extraordinary is that several Members of Parliament were outside leading the crowd and supporting their behaviour.

I take this opportunity to condemn in the most unreserved terms their conduct and, in particular, the behaviour of Mr. Jerome Khan and Mr. Abdul Kadir for marching into the Parliament Chamber with placards. The Police were in dereliction of their duty in failing to arrest Mr. Jerome Khan and Mr. Abdul Kadir.

The Police ought to have taken adequate steps to prevent this interruption as it has happened before and may happen again.

I call on the Police to treat the security of Parliament with some seriousness.”

Resumption of Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance

The Minister of Finance continued and concluded the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs joined the Speaker in condemning the conduct of those PNC/R Members of Parliament and their supporters who conducted the picketing exercise within the precincts of the Convention Centre.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Monday, 7th April, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.58 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 7th April, 2003.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

28th March, 2003.