

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 80TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2014) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2014
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)

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

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

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

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

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

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

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

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

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Education

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services
and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini),
Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the
Ministry of Finance

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

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

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

***Non-Elected Minister**

3.

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

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

**Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Members of the Opposition (33)

(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Deputy Speaker
of the National Assembly

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

****Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

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

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

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

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

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Ms Rennita L. Williams, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

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5.

(iii) Members of The Alliance For Change (7)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (a.g.)

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 1.53 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBRARY AT THE MADHIA SCHOOL
DORMITORIES**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Whereas the Madhia School Dormitories do not have a library, hence, students living in these facilities are denied the opportunity of reading for relaxation and enjoyment and for the expansion of their consciousness;

And whereas it is the duty of the State to create a good study environment for these students.

Could the Hon. Minister say if her Ministry has any plans of setting up a library in the Madhia School Dormitories anytime soon and, if so, how soon would that be?

(Notice Paper No. 305 (Q 206 Opp. 203) published on 2014-03-20)

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting, as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

2. **COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

1. Could the Hon. Minister state the qualifications required to be trained as a Community Health Worker and the duration of the training?

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2. Could the Hon. Minister state the Job Description of a Community Health Worker?
3. Could the Hon. Minister state how many Community Health Workers were trained each year since the programme commenced and how many were employed for each consecutive year?
4. Could the Hon. Minister state how many Community Health Workers are presently employed in hinterland hospitals, health centers and health huts and for how long have been working in these locations?
5. Could the Hon. Minister state the locations where a Community Health Worker is the only staff at the health post?
6. Could the Hon. Minister state how many Community Health Workers were sent on upgrading courses since the commencement of the programme, for how long and what positions were they upgraded to?

(Notice Paper No. 306 (Q 207 Opp. 204) published on 2014-03-20)

Answers:

See Appendix

4. **MADHIA SCHOOL DORMITORIES**

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Whereas a safe, comfortable and healthful learning environment should be of utmost consideration for students living in dormitories;

8.

And whereas the Madhia Dormitories need urgent attention.

Could the Hon. Minister state when will all the following concerns be addressed with a view to creating a safe, comfortable and healthful living and learning environment for the students presently living in the Madhia Dormitories:-

1. Almost all the double bunks presently in use, in both the boys' and girls' dormitories, are rocking and may collapse at any time - some of the boards are also falling out;
2. Thin plywood walls in both dormitories have huge holes;
3. A bedroom door is missing in the girls' dormitory and louvre panes are missing from both the girls' and boys' dormitories;
4. In the girls' dormitory there are exposed electrical points and wires which the students have to join together in order to get light;
5. In the boys' dormitory there are exposed electrical points and wires and there is no electricity in the bathroom area;
6. The plumbing system is down and students fetch water from a distance to flush the toilets when the tanks are empty which is quite often and this lasts for more than a week at times;
7. The incinerator is not functioning so garbage is being disposed of by dumping on the ground (back yard) to be burnt later;

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8. The television set is not functioning since last year.

(Notice Paper No. 307 (Q 208 Opp. 205) published on 2014-03-20)

Answers:

1. “New beds will be procured as part of the RDC 8 Education capital Programme for 2014. Additionally, based on allocations of funds provided, repairs will be done to existing beds.
2. The matter of the plywood walls will be addressed as part of the RDC 8 recurrent work programme for 2014.
3. The bedroom door will be installed; repairs will be done to louvre windows. It should be noted that constant replacements have been done during the years.
4. Electrical faults will be corrected immediately.
5. A spring was recently cleaned and excavated in the vicinity of the Dormitory. The RDC is currently examining a long term solution to provide water and to pressurise the network at the Dormitory.
6. The department of Education pays for the collection of garbage within the compound of the School and the dormitory.
7. A new set will be budgeted for in 2015.”

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2014 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2014

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2014.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2014-03-24)

In Committee of Supply

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

**46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC
PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION**

Current Expenditure

461 Public Hospital

Capital Expenditure

461 Public Hospital

47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Current Expenditure

471 Ministry Administration

472 Diseases Control

473 Primary Health Care Services

474 Regional and Clinical Services

Capital Expenditure

471 Ministry Administration

472 Diseases Control

473 Primary Health Care Services

Capital Expenditure

474 Regional and Clinical Services

Line Item **474 Regional and Clinical Services** was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Ms Ferguson

Ms Williams

Mr. Morian

Mr. Jones

Mr. Adams

Ms Baveghems

Ms Kissoon

Mr. Elliot

Mr. Bond

Mr. Trotman

FOR

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Mr. Chand

Mr. G. Persaud

Bibi Shadick

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Nadir

Ms Teixeira

Bishop Edghill

Mr. Whittaker

Mr. Baksh

12.

Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Mr. Bulkan
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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Current Expenditure

475 Health Sciences Education
476 Standards and Technical Services
477 Rehabilitation Services

Capital Expenditure

475 Health Sciences Education
476 Standards and Technical Services
477 Rehabilitation Services

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN

AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

161 Amerindian Development

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended to allow the Government and Opposition to discuss a proposed reduction in the Budgetary provision for the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, to wit, Amerindian Development.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

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

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN

AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

161 Amerindian Development

Capital Expenditure

161 Amerindian Development

Line Item **161 Amerindian Development** was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Ms Williams
Mr. Morian
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Elliot
Mr. Bond
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Mr. Bulkan

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Mr. G. Persaud
Bibi Shadick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford

15.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

32

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.57 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

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

**45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND WATER**

Current Expenditure

451 Housing and Water

Capital Expenditure

451 Housing and Water

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.34 p.m., the sitting was suspended due to disorder in the Assembly.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

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

Capital Expenditure

451 Housing and Water

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

Current Expenditure

481 Strategic Planning, Administration & Human Services

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

484 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

481 Strategic Planning, Administration & Human Services

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

484 Child Care and Protection

51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force
- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Offices
- 517 Customs Anti Narcotics Unit

Capital Expenditure

- 511 Secretariat Services
- 512 Guyana Police Force
- 513 Guyana Prison Service
- 514 Police Complaints Authority
- 515 Guyana Fire Service
- 516 General Register Office
- 517 Customs Anti Narcotics Unit

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Current Expenditure

- 311 Ministry Administration
- 312 Public Works

Capital Expenditure

- 311 Ministry Administration
- 312 Public Works

Suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1)

At 9.52 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue beyond 10.00 p.m.

Capital Expenditure

312 Public Works

Line Item **312 Public Works** was put and carried on the following division:**DECLINE**
TO VOTE

Mr. T. Williams
 Ms Marcello
 Dr. Ramayya
 Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Ramjattan

7

AGAINST

Ms Ferguson
 Ms Williams
 Mr. Morian
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Adams
 Ms Baveghems
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Elliot
 Mr. Bond
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Dr. Cummings
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Bulkan
 Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
 Mr. Greenidge
 Dr. Norton
 Mrs. Lawrence

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
 Mr. Damon
 Dr. Persaud
 Rev. Gilbert
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. G. Peraud
 Bibi Shadick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony

19.

Mr. B. Williams	Mr. Ali
Ms Ally	Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Roopnarine	Dr. Westford
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger	Mr. R. Peraud
	Dr. Singh
	Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
	Mr. Nandlall
	Dr. Ramsammy
	Mr. Rohee
	Mr. Hinds
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Current Expenditure

313 Transport

Capital Expenditure

313 Transport

Line Item **313 Transport** was put and negated on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Ramjattan
 Ms Ferguson
 Ms Williams
 Mr. Morian
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Adams
 Ms Baveghems
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Elliot
 Mr. Bond
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Dr. Cummings
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Bulkan
 Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
 Mr. Greenidge
 Dr. Norton
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. B. Williams
 Ms Ally
 Dr. Roopnarine
 Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Bibi Shadick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. R. Persaud
 Dr. Singh
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
 Mr. Nandlall
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Hinds

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.25 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 11th April, 2014.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

10th April, 2014.