NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 68TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

- The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)
- The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip)
- The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development
- *The Hon. Rev. Dr. Rammauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development
- *The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)
- The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security
- The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health
- The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry
- *The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

- The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security
- *The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development
- *The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
- The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Local Government

^{*}Non-elected Member

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Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P. Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
Mr. Komal Chand, M.P. Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
Mrs. Una A. James, M.P. Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
     West Demerara)
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Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

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Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent)
Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P. Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.
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(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, 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

(i) New Year Greetings

As that was the first sitting for the year, the Speaker welcomed Members and extended best wishes to them for 1996.

He also stated that he was seeking their continued advice and co-operation and was looking forward to their working together for a successful year.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Winston Murray for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS ETC.

- (1) By the Prime Minister:
 - (i) Annual Report of the Teaching Service Commission for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into - (ii) discharge of cyanide and other noxious substances into the Omai and Essequibo Rivers. (Dated 5th January, 1996)

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the <u> House):</u>

> Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the year 1994.

> > (Circulated)

- (3) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:
 - Annual Report of the Central Housing and (i) Planning Authority for the year 1994. (Circulated)
 - Labour Welfare Fund for the year 1994. (Circulated)
- (4)By the Senior Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1996.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion which was <u>put</u> and <u>carried:-</u>

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Senior Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 1996 at the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 19th January, 1996.

(Notice Paper 92 (M72 Govt59) published 15.1.96)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1996 (1996 BUDGET)

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior 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 1996.

The Senior Minister of Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1996 of the total sum of \$30,946,218,000, excluding \$15,622,872,000, which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The Senior Minister read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.37 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 29th January, 1996.

<u>Distribution of Documents</u>

Following the Adjournment of the Assembly, the following documents were distributed to Members:

- (i) Budget Speech by the Senior Minister of Finance for 1996.
- (ii) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure for 1996.
- (iii) Capital Projects Profiles for 1996.
 - (iv) Motion by the Senior Minister of Finance for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1996.

D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE, Public Buildings, Georgetown.

19th January, 1996

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHERRAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenues 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 WHERRAS estimates of revenues and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1996 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 1996-01-19;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1996, of a total sum of thirty billion, nine hundred and forty-six million, two hundred and eighteen thousand dollars (\$30,946,218,000), excluding fifteen billion, six hundred and twenty-two million, eight hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars (\$15,622,872,000) 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 to finance.

Senior Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE 1996-01-19

SCHEDULE

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Fisheries Division 11,513 Ministry of Agriculture 761,600		31	Hydraulics Division		70,730		
508 Ministry of Agriculture 761,600		32	Hydrometeorological Division		81,647		
, ,		33	Fisheries Division		11,513		
509 Ministry of Agriculture – Sea Defence 0	508		Ministry of Agriculture			761,600	
	509		Ministry of Agriculture – Sea Defence			0	

SCHEDULE

DIVISION	HEAD			NET SUM GRANTED		
NUMBER IN CAPITAL	NUMBER II CURRENT	V	CURRE	NT.	CAPITAL	
ESTIMATES		si figures G\$'000	•	2 -d -ex	O7117771E	
510		Ministry of Agriculture – MMA III			46,000	
512		Ministry of Agriculture – Artisanal Fishery			15,500	
		HEALTH				
	34	Ministry of Health	468	3,763		
	3 5	Ministry of Health - National Hospitals		5,990		
	36	Ministry of Health - Other Health Programmes	307	7,093		
516		Ministry of Health			686,000	
		EDUCATION AND CULTURE				
	37	Ministry of Education and Cultural Development		4,311		
	38	Nursery Schools		3,188		
	39 40	Primary Schools Secondary/Multilateral and Community High Schools		8,903 2,1 9 9		
	40	Technical and Vocational Schools		2, 199 6,098		
	42	Practical Instruction Centres		5,360		
	43	Teacher Training Institutions		6,641		
	44	Resource Centre		7,105		
	45	Department of Culture		2,994		
542		Ministry of Education – Primary Education Improvement Programme		•	1,230,000	
543		Ministry of Education and Cultural Development			276,462	
		LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY				
	46	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security	68	4,277		
503		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP			1,250,000	
504		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security			33,058	
		FINANCE				
	47	Ministry of Finance	•	0,062		
	48	Accountant General Department		9,336		
	49	Customs and Excise Department		2,477		
526	50	Inland Revenue Department Ministry of Finance	25	8,633	2,245,500	
320		Willistry of Finance			2,240,000	
	51	TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry	11	0,487		
528	31	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry		0,407	17,300	
020		Ministry of Frage, Fourism and massry			,000	
	52	PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development	+ 70	4,402		
	52 53	Ministry of Local Government		3,155		
	54	Civil Aviation Department		29,512		
	55	Region No.1 Barima/Walni – Administration		9,365		
	56	Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Agriculture		6,898		
	57	Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Education	9	2,108		
	58	Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Health	3	33,1 3 8		
	59	Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Administration		51,800		
	60	Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Agriculture		33,434		
	61	Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Education		21,918		
	62	Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam – Health		72,810		
	63	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara — Administration		63,073 57,905		
	64	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara — Agriculture		57,805 99,072		
	65	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara Education	2:	33 ₁ 012		

SCHEDULE

DIVISION	HEAD		NET SUM GRANTED		
NUMBER IN			CUPPENT	CAPITAL	
CAPITAL ESTIMATES	CURRENT		CURRENT	CAPITAL	
ESTIMATES	ESTIMATE	S all figures G\$'000			
	66	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara – Health	118,204		
	67	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Administration	90,958		
	68	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Agriculture	77,130		
	69	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Education	329,540		
	70	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Health	49,456		
	71	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice – Administration	62,198		
	72	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice — Agriculture	43,871		
	73	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Agriculture Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Education	130,142		
	74	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Health	48,555		
	75	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Administration	90,080		
	76	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne Agriculture	75,758		
	70 77	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Agriculture Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Education	318,971		
	78	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Health	230,080		
	79	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Administration	84,765		
	80	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Administration	3,403		
	81	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Agriculture Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Education	67,474		
	82	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni — Health	49,412		
	83	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Administration	27,023		
	84	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Agriculture	0		
	85	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Education	26,221		
	86	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Health	8,461		
	87	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Administration	52,218		
	88	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Agriculture	9,203		
	89	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Education	67,692		
	90	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Health	48,576		
	91	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice — Administration	36,006		
	92	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Agriculture	10,944		
	93	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Education	181,173		
	94	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Health	33,825		
519	•	Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development	00,020		
		- Sea Defences		1,963,000	
520		Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development		2,825,400	
521		Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction, Rehabilitation & Studies	1	1,500,100	
517		Guyana Water Authority	•	171,800	
518		GUYWA – Water Supply Improvement		375,000	
522		MInistry of Local Government		6,000	
531		Region No.1 Barima/Waini		20,936	
532		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam		130,500	
533		Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara		220,104	
534		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica		71,600	
535		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice		83,500	
536		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne		142,400	
537		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni		39,100	
538		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni		17,100	
539		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo		26,900	
540		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice		111,000	
		PUBLIC DEBT			
		Dublis Daha	1 000		

GRAND TOTAL \$

95 Public Debt

15,845,857 15,100,361

1,000