

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 76TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 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. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of  
Education and Cultural Development (Absent-on leave)

\*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 (Absent-on leave)

\*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)  
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)  
 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)

**Members of the Minority (29)**

**(i) People's National Congress (26)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)  
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.  
 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. (Absent)  
 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 (Absent)  
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent-on leave)  
 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. (Absent)  
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P. (Absent-on leave)  
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.  
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent-on leave)  
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag  
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.  
 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.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

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

(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 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the Hon. Ramnauth Bisnauth, and Mr. Phillip Bynoe for that day's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM I - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1996

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1996.

In Committee of Supply

The following Heads and Divisions were approved, as printed in the Estimates:-

## 4.

	\$
Head 6 - Office of the Auditor General	70,823,000
Head 47 - Ministry of Finance	1,360,062,000
Head 48 - Accountant General Department	599,336,000
Head 49 - Customs and Excise Department	162,477,000
Head 50 - Inland Revenue Department	258,633,000
Head 95 - Public Debt	1,000,000
Div. 526 - Ministry of Finance	2,245,500,000
Head 53 - Ministry of Local Government	133,155,000
Div. 522 - Ministry of Local Government	6,000,000
Head 55 - Region 1 - Barima/Waini - Administration	59,365,000
Head 56 - Region 1 - Barima/Waini - Agriculture	6,898,000
Head 57 - Region 1 - Barima/Waini - Education	92,108,000
Head 58 - Region 1 - Barima/Waini - Health	33,138,000
Div. 531 - Region 1 - Barima/Waini -	20,936,000
Head 59 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam - Administration	51,800,000
Head 60 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam - Agriculture	33,434,000
Head 61 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam - Education	221,918,000
Head 62 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam - Health	72,810,000
Div. 532 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam -	130,500,000
Head 63 - Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara - Administration	63,073,000
Head 64 - Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara - Agriculture	57,805,000
Head 65 - Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara - Education	299,072,000
Head 66 - Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara - Health	118,204,000
Div. 533 - Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara	220,104,000
Head 67 - Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica - Administration	90,958,000
Head 68 - Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica - Agriculture	77,130,000
Head 69 - Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica - Education	329,540,000
Head 70 - Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica - Health	49,456,000
Div. 534 - Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica	71,600,000

	\$
Head 71 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice - Administration	62,198,000
Head 72 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice - Agriculture	43,871,000
Head 73 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice - Education	130,142,000
Head 74 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice - Health	48,555,000
Div. 535 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice	83,500,000
Head 75 - Region 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne - Administration	90,080,000
Head 76 - Region 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne - Agriculture	75,758,000
Head 77 - Region 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne - Education	318,971,000

Assembly Resumed.SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.33 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The following Heads and Divisions were approved, as printed in the Estimates:

	\$
Head 78 - Region 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne - Health	230,080,000
Div. 536 - Region 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne	142,400,000
Head 79 - Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Administration	84,765,000
Head 80 - Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Agriculture	3,403,000
Head 81 - Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Education	67,474,000
Head 82 - Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Health	49,412,000
Div. 537 - Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni	39,100,000
Head 83 - Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni - Administration	27,023,000
Head 85 - Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni - Education	26,221,000

## 6.

	\$
Head 86 - Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni - Health	8,461,000
Div. 538 - Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni	17,100,000
Head 87 - Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo - Administration	52,218,000
Head 88 - Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo - Agriculture	9,203,000
Head 89 - Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo - Education	67,692,000
Head 90 - Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo - Health	48,576,000
Div. 539 - Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	26,900,000
Head 91 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/ Berbice - Administration	36,006,000
Head 92 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/ Berbice - Agriculture	10,944,000
Head 93 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/ Berbice - Education	181,173,000
Head 94 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/ Berbice - Health	33,825,000
Div. 540 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/ Berbice	111,000,000

**Assembly Resumed.**

The Senior Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had completed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1996, and had approved of them as printed.

The motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1996 was then put and carried.

**BILL - First, Second and Third Readings****ITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 1996 - Bill No. 4/1996 published 7.2.96**

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 1996 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

7.

On motions by the Senior 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 31st December, 1996, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.47 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



**D.C. JAGAN**  
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

**7th February, 1996**