

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2006-2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN Part I of III

48th Sitting

14:00h

Friday 7 March 2008

Speaker (1)

The Hon Hari N Ramkarran SC, MP

Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (42)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)

The United Force (1)

The Hon Samuel A A Hinds MP

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and

Communications (Absent- performing the functions of Office of President)

The Hon Clement J Rohee MP

Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon Shaik K Z Baksh MP

Minister of Education

The Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey MP

- (AOL)

Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

The Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy MP

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

Minister of Health

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The Hon Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett MP

(R# 9 - U Takutu/U Esseq)

Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*The Hon Dr Ashni Singh MP - *(AOL)*

Minister of Finance

*The Hon S Rudolph Insanally OR, CCH, MP - *(AOL)*

Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt MP

Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon Robert M Persaud MP - *(Absent)*

(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)

Minister of Agriculture

The Hon Dr Jennifer R A Westford MP

(R#7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Minister of the Public Service

The Hon Kellawan Lall MP

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon Doodnauth Singh SC, MP - *(Absent)*

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon Dr Frank C S Anthony MP

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon B H Robeson Benn MP

Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon Manzoor Nadir MP

Minister of Labour

The Hon Priya D Manickchand MP

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon Dr Desrey Fox MP

Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon Bheri S Ramsaran MD, MP

Minister in the Ministry of Health

*Non-elected Minister **Elected Member from TUF

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The Hon Jennifer I Webster MP

Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon Manniram Prashad MP

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr Donald Ramotar MP

The Hon Gail Teixeira MP

Mr Harripersaud Nokta MP

Mrs Indranie Chandarpal MP, Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S Shadick MP

(R# 3 – Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Mohamed Irfaan Ali MP

Mr Albert Atkinson JP, MP

(R# 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr Komal Chand CCH, JP, MP

(R# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Mr Bernard C DeSantos SC, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs Shirley V Edwards JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Mohamed F Khan JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam

Mr Odinga N Lumumba MP

- (AOL)

Mr Moses V Nagamootoo JP, MP

Mr Mohabir A Nandlall MP

Mr Neendkumar JP, MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

*** Mr Steve P Ninvalle MP

Parliamentary Sect in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

Parmanand P Persaud JP, MP

(R# 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

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Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury CCH, JP, MP

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

***Non-elected Member

***Mrs Pauline R Sukhai MP

Parliamentary Sect in the Min of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr Dharamkumar Seeraj MP

Mr Norman A Whittaker MP

(R# 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) People's National Congress Reform 1-Guyana (22)

Mr Robert HO Corbin

Leader of the Opposition

Mr Winston S Murray CCH, MP

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl MP

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr E Lance Carberry MP

Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer MP

Mr Anthony Vieira - *(Absent)*

Mr Basil Williams MP

Dr George A Norton MP

Mrs Volda A Lawrence MP - *(AOL)*

Mr Keith Scott MP

Miss Amna Ally MP

Mr Dave Danny MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Aubrey C Norton MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr Ernest B Elliot MP

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

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Miss Judith David-Blair MP

(R# 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr Mervyn Williams MP

(Re# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman MP

Dr John Austin MP

(R# 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade MP

(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms Vanessa Kissoon MP

(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)

Mr Desmond Fernandes MP

(Region No 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr James K McAllister MP

- *(AOL)*

(ii) Alliance For Change (5)

Mr Raphael G Trotman MP

- *(Absent)*

Mr Khemraj Ramjattan MP

Mrs Sheila VA Holder MP

- *(AOL)*

Ms Latchmin B Punalall, MP

- *(AOL)*

(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr David Patterson MP

(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild (1)

Mr Everall N Franklin MP

OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E Isaacs

Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs Lilawatie Coonjah

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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Commencement of Sitting: 14:17H

PRAYERS

The Clerk reads the Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

International Women's Day

Honourable Members, tomorrow is International Women's Day, I therefore take this opportunity and I am sure you in particular the male Members of the National Assembly will join with me in wishing a happy International Women's Day to all the women Members of the National Assembly and all the women of Guyana.
[Applause]

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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MOTION

**ITEM 1 - BUDGET SPEECH 2008 - MOTION FOR
THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF
EXPENDITURE FOR 2008**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to
resume consideration of the Estimates of

Expenditure for the financial year 2008

In Committee of Supply

The Chairman: We are now in Committee of Supply
and we will proceed in accordance with the Sub-
Committee's Resolution and Schedule. Members, could
you kindly turn to Volume 1?

The Chairman: Pages 84 and 85

**AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERN
MENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PRO-
GRAMME 131 - Main Office**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$47,919,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 131 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I am looking at the table on Staffing Details and there are two issues. Well let me put it this way; it really shows that the only category of staff employed by this Agency is under COA 6116 - Contracted Employees. Could the Minister tell us what categories of employees are employed within this group and secondly the emoluments for each of those categories?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister ...

Hon Khellawn Lall: Mr Chairman, the contracted employees numbered eleven:

Three Drivers;

- Three Confidential Secretaries;
- An Adviser to the Minister,
- A Hinterland Development Co-ordinator;
- Personal Assistant;

The salaries are:

- Driver to the Minister - \$48,000

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• Confidential Secretary	-	\$54,000
• Driver (that is for the Office)	-	\$35,000
• Adviser to the Minister	-	\$228,000
• Confidential Secretary	-	\$39,000
• Confidential Secretary	-	\$38,000
• Another driver	-	\$48,000
• Hinterland Co-ordinator	-	\$228,000
• Personal Assistant	-	\$57,000
• Confidential Secretary	-	\$43,000

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Murray ...

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, does the Honourable Minister agree that the category of driver is also provided for in the public service section of his Ministry and if he acknowledges that could he kindly explain why it is that there is the need to employ drivers on a contractual basis and not in the normal public service stream?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, these drivers occupy the statutory public service positions within the Ministry and they are within the scales of the Public Service. Generally speaking when the people apply they all opt to engage with the Ministry on a contractual basis rather than go in the fixed establishment.

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The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin ...

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I am not sure whether the Minister is in a position to answer or whether I should wait until the Minister of Public Service gets up, but I would like to ask since there are absolutely no persons employed apparently in the public service in this Ministry, from when I look here, everyone seems to be contracted employees, whether the Ministry of Local Government falls outside of the public service and whether there are only political appointments made here.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, you will notice that this is only one programme under the Ministry, there are several other programmes. This may give the wrong impression, because this particular programme - the Main Office - there are only contracted employees, but in the other sections in the Ministry where you do have people employed under the fixed establishment.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 131 - Main Office - \$ 47,919,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 86 and 87 ...

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AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
PROGRAMME 132 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,929,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 132 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Williams ...

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Could the Honourable Minister say firstly what is responsible for the increase in the provision and secondly whether the same service provider of 2007 would be retained for 2008?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Could you please repeat the question?

Mr Mervyn Williams: What is responsible for the increase, whether there is increase manpower requirement for example and secondly, is the service provider the same in 2008 as it was in 2007?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think the VAT is mainly responsible for this increase.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, could I respectfully request that the Honourable Minister answers part 2 of the question with respect to the service provider?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Strategic Security Service.

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Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister advise the National Assembly whether there was a tender process that was responsible for the award to Strategic Security? *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Honourable Members, let us hear the question, please.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister advise the National Assembly whether there was a transparent tender process which resulted in the award to Strategic Security Services and the withdrawal of the award from the previous supplier?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the answer is yes.

Mr Mervyn Williams: In that case Sir, could the Honourable Minister say when the tender was advertised and when it was concluded and could the Honourable Minister be kind enough to supply to the National Assembly evidence of the tender arrangement and its conclusion?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister ...

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I do not have those little details with me: when it was advertised and all those things.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, I have in my possession a copy of a letter signed by the Permanent Secretary Mr Seewchan dated 5 January 2008, advising a service provider United Associate Security that the

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National Procurement and Tender Administration Board made an award not in favour of the Company. So my question Sir, could the Minister in the absence of the details at his disposal now, produce to the National Assembly at some convenient time in the future the evidence of the award?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think the Honourable Member is mixing up Regional Security with the security at the Ministry.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, I will repeat the question when it comes to the regional level, so I am asking the Minister to be prepared. However, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister if in the provisions here there is anything allocated to pay arrears to United Associate Security Services so that they can meet their obligations to institutions such as the National Insurance Scheme, for example.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I really do not see the relevance to this line item here.

The Chairman: You are late Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, could the Minister tell us whether the authorised staffing levels for this entity are the same as those in the filled category, and if not, what is the authorised staffing levels.

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is the same Mr Chairman.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I did not hear the answer, Sir.

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Hon Khellawan Lall: The same.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 132 - Ministry Administration - \$33,929,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 88 and 89 ...

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME 133 - Regional Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$125,291,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 133 - Regional Development - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 133 - Regional Development - \$125,291,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 897,844,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, I wish to refer to Project Code 1900600 - Infrastructural Development - Could the Honourable Minister say what manner of holding areas specifically are referred to and how much of that is allocated for Parika; how much for Supenaam , Charity and Bartica separately please?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, these are all temporary holding areas:

- In Region 3 the estimated cost is \$6,000,000
- In Supenaam \$5,000,000
- In Charity \$5,500,000
- In Bartica \$7,000,000

Mr Mervyn Williams: Through you Mr Chairman, is the holding area for cattle, or what exactly is it for?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Sir, specifically for solid waste.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Murray ...

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Mr Winston S Murray: Project Code 1900700 - Project Development and Assistance - Could the Honourable Minister say what are the criteria that he uses in order to distribute the \$280,000,000 to the various municipalities?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I really cannot answer in detail that question; I have just taken for granted that this is something that has been implemented some time ago. To tell you the truth I have never really asked the basis on which these subventions were made, but I can find out and provide the Honourable Member with an answer as to what is the criteria used to come up with the figures.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin ...

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, on the very item, I wonder whether the Minister can inform the House whether this allocation will be done prior to local government elections and if so, whether he intends to begin to use the formula of fiscal transfers that have been agreed.

Hon Khellawan Lall: The law on fiscal transfers has not been passed as yet so I suppose we will go along in the mean time with what is the administration's established procedure for the time being. We are going to disperse this subvention as early as the NDCs and the municipalities submit their programmes through the Ministry of Local Government to the Ministry of Finance.

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As soon as that is approved, we will start allocating these monies.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A supplementary ... Would the Minister agree with me that since the principle used at the moment for allocation of resources to local government bodies is one that is discretionary on the part of the Government and if the Government is in total agreement with the fiscal transfer principles as proposed then the Government does not have to wait on legislation to show good faith and use those principles.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think that these are issues that the Honourable Member should have raised at the level of the general debate, so that they can have a discussion on these matters, that really and truly I cannot say whether or not the Government is inclined to change its policy now. I think Mr Corbin should speak to the President on this matter.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Murray ...

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, I now wish to address a question on Project Code 1902100 - Community Enhancement Services Project. Could the Minister say in respect of the Supenaam Stelling and the Charity Wharf whether these contracts have already been awarded?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, Mr Chairman, these have been awarded and work is in progress.

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Mr Winston S Murray: Thank you Minister. Could the Honourable Minister then assure this House that it is not the same contractor who caused the wharf to float away that has the current contract for the works being done at Charity?

Hon Khellawan Lall: No, Mr Chairman, it is not the same contractor.

Mrs Judith David-Blair: Mr Chairman, on the same Project Code, can the Minister say how much of this money is allocated to Region 7?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It will take me some time to add it up. For instance, some monies will be spent on:

- the market;
- the retention on roads ... Bartica is included;
- the solid waste component ... Bartica is included;
- the town transition plan ... Bartica is included;
- the re-valuation supervision;
- the committee awareness programme ... Bartica is included.

There are several aspects in all the various regions.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, on the same Project Code, the Honourable Minister in his response just indicated that included in Project Profile 45 under

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this line item for Region 7, the holding area issue, in response to an earlier question from me at Project Code 1900600, holding areas would have been covered under that Project Code. Could the Honourable Minister say if there is duplication in this instance, please?

Hon Khellawan Lall: One is under infrastructural development and this is under civil works. They are two different things.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, I have a follow-up question on Project Code 1902100. Could the Minister indicate whether there are any additional projects other than those specifically listed under description of Project Profile 45?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think this will bring an end to this project - the UDP - there are no additional programmes under this project.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, if that is the case, then would the Minister not agree that rather than describing the project as including these things to say that the project entails or consists of these things, if not, would he not agree that the erroneous impression could be created that there are projects other than these that are part of the profile.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I agree, Mr Chairman.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Project Code 3600100 - Solid Waste Disposal Programme and Project

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Profile 48, I note that one of the components is the treatment and disposal (I believe) of hospital and hazardous waste. Now this is an area that is extremely important and sensitive. Could the Minister indicate how many of these centres exist and where are they located?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there are no centres as yet for these things. You know the solid waste project has just started. We just put the PEU in place; we are now advertising for the CEO operating. There will be several areas where we are going to have sites and holding areas and so forth. A study is being done at present to look at hazardous waste including waste from hospitals and so forth and I think the Ministry of Health also has a programme to deal with some of those specific types of wastes. But as we go along we will get the details, the study is being done on that particular type of waste.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I assume that what the Minister is saying is that there does not exist at the moment any designated centres for the treatment of hospital and hazardous wastes. Is that what you are saying Minister?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Well some of it is dealt with at Mandella presently or people do not want us to refer to Mandella landfill site, but some of the hazardous waste presently has been dealt with at the La Repentir site.

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Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I am really a little bit frightened by that answer, because the disposal of hospital and hazardous waste is a very serious business. You do not dispose those things in an open landfill and maybe the Minister of Health may want to put some elucidation here, because this is a very dangerous thing as you say. If what you say is correct then it is very dangerous.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I must say although I do know that the Ministry of Health has some facilities to take care of this type of waste not only in Region 4, but in many regions, I agree with the Honourable Member that more needs to be done. That is the reason why we have put so much effort into contracting this loan so that we can deal with these types of wastes in a very particular way and in a very comprehensive way so that when Haags Bosch comes on stream, we will be able to deal with these kinds of waste in an appropriate manner.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Project Code 1902100 - Community Enhancement Services Project ... I see listed under the Project Profile ... *[Interruption]*

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I cannot hear ...

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Sorry, let me speak a little louder. Project Code 1902100 - Community Enhancement Services Project - and I see four items listed under the Project Profile:

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- Payment of retention;
- Completion of the Stelling at Supenaam and the Wharf at Charity; and
- Technical assistance and institutional strengthening of the NDCs.

I wish to ask the Honourable Minister what criteria will be used for this technical assistance for the NDCs. How will you know how much to give which NDC? That is what I want to know.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I do know that in future we are going to deal with the subvention to NDCs in a particular manner, that manner has been dealt with at the joint taskforce level. At the moment there has been a historical method used; I am not quite au fiat with all the criteria used to determine the level of subvention and I have made that point already. Mr Corbin asked that question and I answered.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister under the Solid Waste Disposal Programme ... *[Interruption: 'Solid waste wakes you up.'* "Yes, it wakes me up and when I look at you ...] *[Laughter]*. I would like to know when this loan was disbursed, because I can remember in last year's budget this project should have been on stream. Can the Honourable Minister say why the delay?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, here again, I really do not think that I should encourage this kind of thing, because I really need to get through with this thing here. We are dealing with a specific item. I can answer the question regarding when the loan was disbursed. The loan was disbursed in February last year.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Mr Chairman, I do not want to get the Minister angry, but in light of the very serious implications in the disposal of waste of various kinds, I think, it is important to find out why the Project Execution Unit that the Minister spoke about did not get through with quite a few of the project items which would have speeded up the entire process. So this is not a debate about the actual thing. We are speaking about you having a Project Execution Unit which could have gotten through quite a bit of the work since February of last year. Why the delay? That is all I am asking.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, since this loan was contracted in February of last year, I am not aware of any delay. *[Applause]*

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, the same item Sir, Profile 48, could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly as to the expected date of completion of this new sanitary landfill at Haags Bosch. I hope this does not anger you Sir.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am obliged. Mr Chairman, there are several aspects of this project, but I think the

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Honourable Member is interested in the actual physical location when it will be ready or when we will start the preparation of the site. I think from the first month of next year. At the moment we are going through all the studies to get the CEO operator who has to contract all the people who is going to collect and dispose of the waste and all the financial arrangements including putting the legal and other arrangements at the NDCs and at the municipal level so that they can start collecting. In accordance to the loan agreement the equivalent of US \$1 per household come January 2009. So all those things have been timetabled and from I have seen from the timetabling of this activity that come January next year, the actual physical works at Haags Bosch will commence.

Mr Winston S Murray: Thank you very much Mr Minister. Through you Mr Chairman, in that case would you not agree that it is somewhat inaccurate to speak of construction of the site since you are doing preparatory works and then my question would not have been relevant.

The other question relates to the Mandella landfill; would the Minister agree that the impression given at Item 6 in the description of the project is that during 2008, Mandella landfill will be both expanded and closed, because that is what it says and if he agrees would he agree further that it would be somewhat premature to actually speak of the closure of Mandella landfill in 2008, when he tells the National Assembly that they would not

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commence construction on what is supposed to be the replaced site for Mandella until the beginning of 2009?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I do not know. If perhaps there is indeed confusion let me clarify it. Mandella cannot be closed this year. Perhaps there is some confusion, but Mandella cannot be closed this year, because as I said, we are starting the financial arrangement for the construction of Haags Bosch and the actual construction would start in January and so it will take a few months for that landfill site to be ready to accommodate waste collected from East Coast, East Bank and Georgetown. So only when that happens then we will be in a position to close the Le Repentir dump site.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, through you, could the Honourable Minister say how long (I am sorry my Dutch is not good) Haags Bosch has been identified as the replacement landfill site for Mandella Avenue? Could you say which year?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think it is about three or four years ago ... [*Interruption: 'Why not five?'*] ... probably five.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So the studies for the construction of this site started three years ago; is that what you are saying Sir?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It was identified as a possible site and then they did some studies and so forth, but the actual

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intense study of the site had to start only when we would have gotten the loan agreement going.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, I wish to return to a question I asked earlier with reference to Project Codes 1900600 and 1902100 when the Honourable Minister responded by saying that one of the Regions either 3 or 7 came under civil and the other under infrastructural development. Mr Minister, Profile 43 is very specific that the holding areas for Parika, Supenaam, Charity and Bartica, they all come under one profile. I repeat the first question Sir, Could you say whether there was some sort of mistake or duplication when you answered the question of the Honourable Member Judith David-Blair that the provision at Profile 45 included for Region 7 provision for the holding area.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I answered that question already.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$897,844,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 264 and 265 ...

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**AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI -
PROGRAMME 711 - Regional Administration and
Finance**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$66,665,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 711 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: I wish to ask the Honourable Minister ... I see under the Staffing Details there are three contracted employees there ...out of a total of forty-four employees, I see in Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - the budgeted amount \$2,752,000, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister who are these three contracted employees that receive \$2.7 million, leaving a meagre \$16,000,000 for other forty one employees. I wish to ask who are these super-salaried contracted employees ... I am asking who - the functionaries not the names?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the three persons are:

- The Deputy Regional Executive Officer (DREO);
- A Caretaker; and
- A Confidential Secretary

Mrs Judith David-Blair: Mr Chairman, can the Minister say what are the emoluments for the caretaker.

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Hon Khellawan Lall: \$40,000

Mrs Judith David-Blair: And the others?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The DREO gets \$147,000 and the Confidential Secretary \$39,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Fernandes

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I notice that the amount remains the same here. It was brought to my attention that security personnel for Region 1 under this Code are below the minimum wage. It was also brought to my attention that there is a new agency. I would like to know whether this amount will be sufficient to pay adequate for the security services.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I think it is adequate.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Murray

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency - Can the Honourable Minister kindly inform the National Assembly as to what are these expenses specific to these to the agency especially since most agencies do not have any sum against that particular Code. Could he enlighten us?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this sum under this Region is to provide for stipends for the twenty-three

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Amerindian Village Captains; the eight senior councillors for Santa Rosa Village and the RDC councils.

Mr Winston S Murray: Thank you Minister.

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - I always love to see the regions develop in other parts of the country and in terms of this amount for national events; I want to know whether this is adequate for the local events and the participation at the national level.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, you realise that I have been asked to give my opinion on some of these matters; I do not like to give my opinion on these matters. This is the sum budgeted; I think these are based on the requests on the regions; they have been discussed at the Ministry level - the Ministry of Finance - and they came up with this figure and I suppose that this is what they believe to be adequate.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 711 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$66,665,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 266 and 267

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AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI -
PROGRAMME 712 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$153,420,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 712 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Fernandes

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - I notice there is an increase in the amount of money; I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether it is for improved service of power in the day time and what is the time if it is so.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this is to accommodate an increase in the hours that we are going to provide electricity to these residents and also to extend this service to Wauna, Moruca and Matthews Ridge.

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr Chairman, to the Minister, in 2007 the Minister indicated that this fund would have been supplied to repair the bulldozer at Wauna Bridge. I see the bulldozer is still there two weeks ago. Is the additional fund here of \$6.5 million to complete the repairs of that bulldozer?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Which line item is that?

Mr Desmond Fernandes: 6264 - Vehicle Spares and Service

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this is an estimate; we have estimated that this money will suffice to repair all those equipment that are at the moment still serviceable.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - I noticed that there is a significant increase from the revised 2007 to the budgeted 2008; could the Minister explain what is the reason for this?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I just answered that question.

Mr Mervyn Willaims: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - could the Honourable Minister say if the same service provider for 2007 continues in 2008; could the Honourable Minister also say in light of his earlier response that VAT was responsible for the increase in another area of his Ministry; could the Honourable Minister explain how there is no increase in the budgeted figure for 2008, whether there is a scaling down in security personnel?

Hon Khellawan Lall: That was an essay; that was not a question, but the RK Security Services is a new one; it is not anything different from last year.

Mr Mervyn Willaims: Could the Honourable Minister say when the tender process to award the contract to RK Security was in fact occasioned and could the Honourable

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Minister at some convenient time provide evidence to this National Assembly with respect to that.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I still do not see the relevance to these issues anyhow, but the tender procedure was completed last year.

Mr Mervyn Willaims: Could the Honourable Minister say when in last year? According to my information ...
[Interruption]

Hon Khellawan Lall: The latter part of last year.

Mr Mervyn Willaims: Sir the last submission for tender for this security provision services in March 2007; could the Honourable Minister confirm that tender is valid for a maximum of ninety days and if that is so, could the Honourable Minister say how could tender have been awarded in the latter half of last year when the last submission was in March?

The Chairman: Honourable Member, you know I have given you a lot of liberty over the last few dozens of questions, but we have to confine ourselves to really what is in the Estimates and what are the issues arising from the Estimates. Matters like those are highly legitimate, but they have to be put in separate questions for the Minister to answer on a separate occasion.

Hon Khelawan Lall: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Ms Selman

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Ms Africo Selman: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Honourable Minister say how many persons are likely to benefit from these training and in what area? [*Interruption: 'There is no scholarship there.'*] Yes, there is

The Chairman: Do not allow heckling to derail you.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Four persons will benefit. I think it is the engineer, the foreman and two overseers.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, could the Minister tell us what are the approved staffing levels for this Region here?

Hon Khellawan Lall: For the Region or for this ...

Mr E Lance Carberry: ... for this particular entity - public works ... we are dealing with Barima/Waini; what is the approved staffing levels for that entity?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The staffing level is fifty, Mr Chairman.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So there are vacancies

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay, thank you. Could you tell us what category of employee is contracted? There is one person here and I notice that the salary is \$2.1 million

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as against \$8.139 million for twenty-one employees.
Could you explain?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is the salary of the Regional Engineer.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay, thank you.

**Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 712 - Public Works - \$ 153,420,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Pages 268 and 269

**AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI -
PROGRAMME 713 - Education Delivery**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 562,875,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 713 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - Could the Honourable Minister say whether this sum of money would include students to participate in the national cricket championship, the national football championship, the national athletics and similar championships?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Do you want a yes or no answer?
The answer is yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs David-Blair

Mrs Judith David-Blair: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I see the revised amount in 2007 is the same as in 2008; can the Minister say if the staffing is the same and if this amount includes the nine percent increase in salary?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, as regards the salary, we are not responsible for whatever arrangement the company has with its employees whether it is nine percent or ten percent. We cannot dictate that. I understand it is the same security service as last year - RK Security Services.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 713 - Education Delivery - \$562,875,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 270 and 271

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI - PROGRAMME 714 - Health Services Delivery

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$167,448,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 714 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Programme 714 - Health Services - \$167,448,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 463

**AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$142,975,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Fernandes

Mr Desmond Fernandes: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1400400 - Roads - It is indicated to fix Coomacka to Kwabanna; Yarakita to Wauna; Turn Basin to Port Kaituma School and Wanaina Foothills - This seems to be inadequate. Could the Minister give a breakdown of what amounts are for the different area of roads?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the works to be done at the Coomacka /Santa Rosa to the Kwabanna Road will be executed to the cost of \$5,000,000; The Wauna Yarakita Road \$5,000,000; the Wanaina Foothills and Wanaina Playfield \$5.3 million and the resurfacing of the Turn Basin to the school road junction in Port Kaituma would be \$9,000,000.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$142,975,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 278 and 279

**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2:
POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 721 -
Regional Administration and Finance**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$82,231,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 721 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam,
Programme 721 - Regional Administration and**

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Finance - \$82,231,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 280 and 281

**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2:
POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 722 -
Agriculture**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$159,643,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 722 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam,
Programme 722 - Agriculture - \$159,643,000
- agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

Pages 282 and 283

**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2:
POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 723 -
Public Works**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$76,349,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 723 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 723 - Public Works - \$76,349,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 284 and 285

**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/
SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 724 - Education
Delivery**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$731,306,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 724 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 724 - Education Delivery - \$731,306,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 286 and 287

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**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2:
POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 725 -
Health Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$286,134,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 725 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Riehl

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say what are the categories of employees under the contracted employee levels - Account Code 6116? There are eight contracted employees and can the Honourable Minister say who these functionaries are and they receive \$15.4 million?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there are four GMOs, their basic salaries are \$156,000 - doctors and they are called General Medical Officer; three midwives \$39,000 and one Health Visitor \$77,000.

**Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam,
Programme 725 - Health Services - \$286,134,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Page 464

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**AGENCY 72 - REGION 2:
POMEROON/SUPENAAM - CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$249,400,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1400500 - Roads - Would the Honourable Minister be good enough to identify the specific allocations for the roads that will be rehabilitated, because even though the Project Profile give some areas, it says such as, so one is not certain whether that is the complete list or whether there is a programme and what are those roads and how much?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this \$39.7 million listed here will be distributed in the following way:

- CV Nunes School Road, Anna Regina - \$8.5 million;
- Richmond, the cricket ground street - \$8.5 million ;
- Bharrat Street, Henrietta - \$8 million;

Additionally the following roads will be upgraded with crusher runs and loom:

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- The second street in Paradise;
- The new street in Columbia and
- Peter street in Reliance - approximately \$7 million each

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$249,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, are you looking at Region 2

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr Winston S Murray: Sir, we have done Region 2. I thought it was an error

The Chairman: Oh, sorry, my apology. I will now start with the next region.

Pages 294 and 295

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 731 -Regional Administration and Finance

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$125,069,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 731 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

Are you there Mr Williams?

Mr Mervyn Williams: Yes, that is where I am.

The Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Could the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with an explanation for the dramatic increase in the sum allocated?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, yes, there is indeed a very great disparity here, but I am being advised that this is the sum at which the tender process came up with; this is awarded to the most qualified security service.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister say whether there is also a change in the security service provider and the name of that service provider in 2008.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, it is the same security service.

Mr Mervyn Williams: And the name, Sir?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Strategic.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Thank you Mr Minister. Sir, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Can the

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Honourable Minister provide the information as to what is the office held by the lone contracted listed under that Code?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The PS (Finance).

Mr Mervyn Williams: On your leniency Sir, could the Honourable Minister explain how in 2007, there were two contracted employees; in 2008 there is one and there is an increase in the sum allocated for contracted employees?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, one person resigned and the PS (Finance) salary was upgraded.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 731 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$ 125,069,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 296 and 297

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 732 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 176,057,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West

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Demerara, Programme 732 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - Could the Honourable Minister explain the increase, which is almost double 2007 and recognising that it is consistent with 2006 and 2007?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there are two reasons for this:

- Acquisition of more equipment; and
- Increase in the cost of fuel.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Thanks Mr Minister for that answer and I wish to refer you to Account Code 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - there is no significant increase there and if you have and if you have additional machinery and equipment, Sir, there is likely to be a similar increase. Do you wish to explain that, Sir?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, these are new equipment, the rate of maintenance will be a bit low

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 732 - Agriculture -

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\$176,057,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 298 and 299

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 733 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 86,070,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 733 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could I ask the Honourable Minister to address a few Account Codes together in the interest of time 6242, 6252, 6251 and 6255 - Maintenance of buildings; maintenance of bridges; maintenance of roads and maintenance of other infrastructure - would the Honourable Minister be kind enough to supply a breakdown of roads and bridges, et cetera?

Hon Khellawan Lall: You want a break down of all these things; lumping them altogether in the interest of time.

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Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6242, the buildings that will be maintained would be: The Government quarter in WD - various government quarters;

- The Regional Office - we will do some maintenance;
- The Regional Sub-Office in Leguan;
- The Overseer quarters in Wakenaam; and
- The Guest House in Wakenaam.

Bridges:

- The bridge at Endeavour and Commons;
- Crane Old Road, Sarah No. 1;
- Sarah No. 2; Vergenoegen/Tuschen Footpath; and
- The CI Community Centre Bridge.

There are several other government quarters in the region that will be maintained.

In Leguan, it has to do with:

- The Superintendent quarters;
- The Overseer's quarters;
- The fences at various buildings on the West Demerara; and also

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- The RDC tarmac in the compound, we have to do some work on that.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 733 - Public Works - \$86,070,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 300 and 301

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 734 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,091,874,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 734 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister say ... *[Interruption]*

Hon Khellawan Lall: Which item?

Mr Mervyn Williams: ... under Staffing Details the areas listed under Filled is the full complement under this agency?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, Mr Chairman

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister say then there is a substantive Regional Education Officer that position is filled and the person is functioning?

Hon Khellawan Lall: No, there is supposed to be a transfer from Region 2 that gentleman has been instructed to transfer himself; he has not done so as yet and I already started to have discussions as to what disciplinary measures could be taken against him.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Thank you, Sir.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 734 - Education Delivery - \$1,091,874,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 302 and 303

**AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/
WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 735 - Health
Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 432,790,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West

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Demerara, Programme 735 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6292 - Dietary - Could you offer an explanation for the increase, Sir? Is it VAT?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I am made to understand that there will be some new locations, which we will need to secure. The Leonora Diagnostic Centre is being one of them. I am sorry that I do not have the details of all the new places, but I do know that the Leonora needs to be secured through the region and that is one of the reasons for the increase.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - Honourable Minister, I observe under Staffing Details that there is a reduction in the number of contracted employees, but the provided amount remains constant. Could you say what is responsible for that and could you also say what category of persons and how many falls under 6116?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, one of the doctors resigned and the sum seems to be the same for the five that is to take care of the nine percent increase.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Could the Honourable Minister respond to the other part of the question with respect to

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the categories of persons under contracted employees and the number please, Sir?

Hon Khellawan Lall: One Gynaecologist, one Dental Surgeon ... [*Noisy Interruption*]

The Chairman: Members, please observe some decorum in the House

Hon Khellawan Lall: Sorry, Mr Chairman, I think there are some disturbances around me. There are three doctors and one medex.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Account Code 6111 - Administrative - Could the Honourable Minister explain the zero allocation when the Staffing Details provide for one person?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am advised that there is a very simple explanation for this seemingly anomalous situation that there has been a resignation the Senior Administrative, but that post has to be filled.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Sir, a follow-up to the same question - Could the Honourable say when this person resigned having regard to the fact that the West Demerara Regional Hospital has been without a substantive Administrator for more than three years?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there is someone acting in that position and the person referring to the resignation took place in January this year.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 735 - Health Services - \$432,790,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 465

**AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/
WEST DEMERARA - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE -
Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$202,500,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Project Code 140600 - Roads - I think it is covered under Project Profile 236 and I wonder if I can have some breakdown of the works to be

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done in terms of the financial allocation at the areas listed in the Project Profile.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, he could answer together if do not mind, Mr Minister. This is linked to it. Could you also say while you answer that question whether the listed roads here are the only ones you intend to do under that category of upgrading, because you say such as and if they are not the only ones, could you say tell us the others as well as you answer?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am advised that in answer to the Honourable Member Mr Murray ... in answer to Mr Corbin if you allow me I will provide that ... the retention \$006 million:

- Construction of First Cross Street in Sisters Village \$7,000,000;
- First Street Block 20 in Tuschen \$6,000,000;
- First Street Good Intent \$7,000,000;
- Stewartville \$8.2 million; and it includes the drying flow road in Leguan \$8,000,000 and other street Zameed Street almost \$5,000,000. That is in Stewartville.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, would the Minister not agree that where there are other streets in order that the full facts are known to the National

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Assembly that they should all be listed and that in future this would be considered?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Thank you very much for the suggestion, Mr Murray.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I am not trying to be meticulous; I just want to understand what I can expect when I visit these areas. Would the Minister having listed those areas say what level of upgrading he plans the \$7,000,000 at Sisters, the \$8,000,000 at Leguan and the \$8.2 million at Stewartville. In other words, are we having a surfaced road or just some stone crushing; it is going to be sealed? I just want to have an idea on what this money is going to be spent for.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am very glad that Mr Corbin as a Member of Parliament would be visiting these areas and to assist the Government in seeing that these works are completed. These will be chip seal roads - all of them. You can ask this gentleman here for an explanation.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Project Code 1203000-Buildings -Education - Project Profile 232 - Honourable Minister, could you say how much of the sum allocation for example retention pertains to the Greenwich Park Primary School and whether or not you intend to

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surcharged the contractor for the defects which currently exists and how soon, Sir?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I am advised that the project that the Member is asking about is not part of this programme that is under Basic Needs. So it is not catered for here.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Thank you Sir. Under the same line item, could the Honourable Minister say what needs assessment would have been conducted to determine the construction of the Parika/Salem dormitory facility for example given the fact that the student who attend there are from the same community of Parika/Salem?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this facility will be catering for a lot of riverain students - Aliko, Bonasika and so forth. I think the study has been done through the Ministry of Education.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Through you Sir, am I to understand Honourable Minister that a study is being done after an allocation has been made and could the Honourable Minister say if the Schools in Aliko and Karia Karia for example as alluded to by the Honourable Member Mr Ramotar, if they are no longer serving the purposes for which they were constructed?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member is a bit confused; those are primary schools and this is a Secondary school. A secondary school is

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different from a primary school. The dorm at Parika/Salem would be catering for secondary school children and just to ... perhaps I cannot recall what statement I made to answer your previous question ... what I meant was generally speaking this type of survey and study is undertaken by the Ministry of Education and not my Ministry in determining these things.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Mr Chairman, in light of the hardships suffered by the children of Wales for the last five years, would the Honourable Minister consider a suggestion to forego an extension of Windsor Forest for this year and to apportion the sum provided towards the rehabilitation of the Wales Primary School? We are still on Project Code 1203000

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I sometimes need your guidance as to how far off we move away from the business of the day that is why I do not readily take the floor.

The Chairman: If I do not say anything Honourable Member, you should try to answer the question. I have not stopped the Member.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I have taken note of the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

The Chairman: If you cannot answer it; you cannot answer it.

The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

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Mr Robert HO Corbin: At the risk of sounding like a repeating record, I go back to the Project Code.
[Interruption]

The Chairman: That is what politicians do.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: It is necessary sometimes.

The Chairman: I know.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: The question on roads on that very line item, you gave me some figures and then you said that it would be chip seal and you are happy to know that I would visit, but the reason for my asking the question and I am asking straightforward at this point, do you have an idea of the lifespan of the roads that we are spending this money on? In other words, how long is this chip seal road that you are spending the \$7,000,000 likely to last? Do you have some plan in mind; some target period as the case may be? It is not a wild question, Mr Minister. At least there used to be a lab in the Ministry of Works some years ago that did all kinds of stress test and depends on what material you used and compaction can give you some idea of what weight it could take on all of that. I am asking whether we are spending this \$8,000,000 or \$7,000,000, what do you expect from that expenditure; what are the specifications you are going to give to the contractor in terms of what he is supposed to do and what are the expected outcomes? In other words, are these residents going to be fooled that they have a

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road, but in a month they have potholes. So that is why I am asking the question

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this is obviously a very technical question and needs some technical explanation, but I am being advised by my officers that this money that is being expended will suffice to build a road that given the normal traffic (not many heavy equipment using the road) that it will last with minimum of maintenance three years.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: My final question Sir - Project Code 2503300 - Furniture and Equipment - Education - Could the Honourable Minister identify the three schools that will benefit the most from this provision and collectively how much they will benefit? Thank you.

Hon Khellawan Lall: All the schools will benefit. I really cannot say at the moment which one more than the other, but I think that the two schools in Leguan and Wakenaam need urgent attention and emphasis would be placed to see that some priority is given to those two schools, because of the situation there.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$202,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 310 and 311

**AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA,
PROGRAMME 741 - Regional Administration and
Finance**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$89,010,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 741 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - In 2007 the budgeted allocation was \$940,000 and revised \$685,000; the budget for 2008 is \$1,050,000; there are three questions here:

- (i) How many persons participated in training exercise for 2007;
- (ii) How many persons received scholarships;
- (iii) How many persons are identified in 2008 for training and in what category?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Four persons identified for this year. I think the Accounts Section.

Mr Ernest B Elliot: For 2007, how many persons were trained and how many persons received scholarships?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: I do not want to sound felicitous Mr Chairman, we are dealing with 2008 here, I can explain what is here.

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Account Code 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency - Can the Honourable Minister explain this line item?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Would you please repeat the question?

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Account Code 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency - Can the Honourable Minister explain this line item?

Hon Khellawan Lall: This is to cover the statutory meetings and the stipends for the RDC members.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: On the very item, now that I know the head under which that item - stipends to RDC members; is it the same item that is used to cover travelling for Members of the RDC, et cetera?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Then my question and I do not want to ask this under every other region, but the question is the same for all the regions more specific to Regions 7 and 10, where I know that in 2007, there have been severe difficulties in meetings and I think one meeting in Region 7 was cancelled, because the REO said that there was no

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money in the vote for councillors to come. My question is: has there been a scientific approach to the calculation of the amount allocated here and in all the regions to ensure that the elected officials, whose functions are to plan for the regions are able to attend the meetings and you do not have a recurrence of what occurred at least in Region 7 that I am certain about last year.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think we all agree that these are estimates and things could happen after we would have settled this budget. Last year, there were steep increases in certain services that we needed to contract especially the affairs in the hinterland areas. That was one of the reasons that there were some problems. We would try to identify whatever problems we would have this year (if we would have any) and try to resolve them as early as possible, so that we would not have such occurrences like the postponement of meeting and so forth. So we have to appreciate that in some areas, we may have problems not only in travelling, but at least to make sure that the stipend for the councillors would not be used for other things, but to pay the stipends to the councillors.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A supplementary which could probably be taken as a suggestion; would it not be more appropriate, Mr Minister, to separate (maybe to discuss with the Ministry of Finance) these specific expenses that are essential to the functioning of the democratic system so it is not left in any block vote to be misused or used by

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any (I would say administrative functionary) and determine the manner in which it is spent, because the way it is left there in a contingency, it means that it can be manipulated in terms of the priorities as was the case in those regions I referred to.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I note the suggestion by Mr Corbin. I urge the Honourable Member to have some discussions with Member of Parliament colleagues and the Honourable Minister of Finance to see how we can do this.

Mr Dave Danny: Mr Chairman ...

The Chairman: Yes, Mr Danny

Mr Dave Danny: Under Staffing Details COA 6114 - Clerical and Office Support - for 2007 it was thirty-four and in 2008 it is thirty, there is a reduction. Can the Minister say the reason for this? Are we a scaling down government?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there has been a reduction of staff that resulted in this smaller sum being allocated. I am sorry, resignation.

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, a supplementary - Can the Honourable Minister say what is the authorised strength.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Seventy-five.

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Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 741 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$89,010,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 312 and 313

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 742 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$129,898,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica, Programme 742 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Elliot

Mr Ernest Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - Can the Honourable Minister say if this allocation is for the normal drainage and irrigation maintenance works throughout the region?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, this sum is to take care of routine maintenance of the D and I system.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 742 - Agriculture - \$129,898,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 314 and 315

**AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA,
PROGRAMME 743 - Public Works**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$161,234,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica, Programme 743 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Elliot

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Can the Honourable Minister say what are the positions and salaries for these contracted workers?

Hon Khellawan Lall: This sum is to accommodate the employment of the Regional Engineer whose salary stands at \$160,000

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Can the Honourable Minister say which are the buildings to be maintained?

Hon Khellawan Lall: There is quite a number of buildings in the Paradise area, Cove and John, Timehri, Better Hope, Triumph, Buxton, Victoria and Cane Grove. Minor repairs to several buildings, roofs, walls, different things, these are the areas. There are about ten to twelve buildings identified.

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Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - Can the Honourable Minister indicate to this House the roads and the areas where these roads are to be maintained?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The areas will be Yaracabra, Enterprise, Melanie, Success, Golden Grove, Mahaica, Stratspey and Triumph; about two roads each in all these villages identified for maintenance.

Mr Dave Danny: Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - Can the Minister say what are the other infrastructure; could he identify them and where?

Hon Khellawan Lall: In Cove and John for instance, we are repairing the fence, the government quarter, there will be some weeding done; the fence at the administrative compound in Timehri; the filling with earth and sand the compound at Paradise; also the Sub-Office at Timehri identified to do some weeding and cleaning; in Enmore the fence of the District Development Office will be repaired and some work to be done in the compound ; in Triumph that is where the new Headquarters is going to be to construct a chain link fence surrounding the compound.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica, Programme 743 - Public Works - \$161,234,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 316 and 317

**AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA,
PROGRAMME 744 - Education Delivery**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,455,490,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica, Programme 744 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Elliott

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6131 - Other Direct Labour Cost - Can the Honourable Minister explain this expenditure?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this sum is to accommodate the acting allowance of quite a number of teachers especially.

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, I did not hear the answer clearly.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Acting allowances for teachers.

Mr Dave Danny: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - I see that there is an increase from \$2.8 million to \$5.7 million bearing in mind that on the page before there is a reduction of \$436,000 and \$784,000 - I did not ask the question, because there is a reduction, I said that it is good management, but then there is a sudden rise on this page.

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Hon Khellawan Lall: As I have indicated, the Minister of Education indicated in the general debate that we will be zeroing more and more in the activities of the individual schools at the regional level and this would entail more visits and to have better scrutiny of what is going on in these various establishments. So this will take care of the increase amount of monitoring.

Ms Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6261 - Security Services - Could the Minister say whether this amount caters for twenty-four hours guard service in all the schools?

Hon Khellawan Lall: No, it does not.

Ms Amna Ally: A supplementary Mr Chairman, uppermost in our minds is the safety of the nation's children, I hope. Could the Minister say if there is any consideration to have twenty-four hours guard service to these schools later on?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, that is a very good suggestion, but I must state, however, essentially these security services being contracted, it will take care of the infrastructure especially when the off-classes period; essentially that is what it is and the security of the children I suppose that is a totally different story.

Ms Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Could the Minister say the disparity

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for the payment rate for security services is going to be regularised and how soon?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I do not think that my Ministry has anything whatsoever to do with that disparity. These are private companies.

Ms Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, I do not understand, is it not that the Ministry of Education is considered as the payment agency for these security agencies?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The RDCs not the Ministry of Education.

Ms Amna Ally: Well that is why I am asking the Honourable Minister to say whether it is going to be regularised, since you have said that it is the RDC. Is it going to be regularised and how soon?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there are two aspects:

- (i) The contracts for the several agencies in the regions are done separately and you go through a bidding process. So security services may be contracted at this rate in this region and you may lose in another region at a different rate. That is one thing and it comes up a lot.
- (ii) Then the contract between the workers and their employees, we have absolutely nothing to do with that. These firms are contracted on the basis of a bidding process and we cannot

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instruct these companies to regularise their payments to workers or their rate at which they charge. If all these companies belong to the government perhaps we could do something about it, but at the moment these are all private companies.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Elliot

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - Can the Honourable Minister explain this expenditure in depth?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this \$18,000,000 is to accommodate minor maintenance on several buildings mainly fence, landfill. I can give you the areas:

- Clonbrook
- Anns Grove
- St Andrews
- Kuru Kuru
- Cane Grove
- Silver Hill
- Timehri
- Company Road
- LBI

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- Lusignan
- Mocha Arcadia
- Peter's Hall
- Plaisance
- Providence
- Mon Repos
- Buxton
- Paradise
- Golden Grove
- Hope
- Helena
- Mahaica and
- Gibson.

Do you want the exact school buildings?

**Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica,
Programme 744 - Education Delivery - \$1,455,490,000
- agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

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The Chairman: Pages 318 and 319

**AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA,
PROGRAMME 745 - Health Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$202,225,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica, Programme 745 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica,
Programme 745 - Health Services - \$202,225,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Page 466

**AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$140,200,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/ Mahaica - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 1100500 - Bridges - Could the Honourable Minister how much money is allocated to the two bridges; I think one is

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at Unity and what size of bridge if it is a footpath bridge or if it is vehicular bridge?

Hon Khellawan Lall: [*Pause*] Mr Chairman, I am sorry about that, but the Member of Parliament is asking for some details which I had to go. The two bridges:

- One is at Clonbrook - the construction of greenheart heavy duty bridge over the East Sideline, it is forty by fourteen feet at the cost of \$6.5 million. This bridge ... well we do not have to go into all the details as to how many people they serve and all of that.
- The bridge in Unity, Mahaica - construction of a heavy duty bridge at the main road and the size is forty feet by sixteen feet.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Hon Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I come back to the same concern I have under Project Code 1400700 - Roads - \$26,000,000 - and to query; you see there is a recurring word *includes* and that is what bothers me; are these only four areas to benefit from this \$20,000,000? The other way you can list so that we can know what is to be done and again what level of work is to be done with this money?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Corbin through the Chair, it is intended for four activities and I think it is taken out of

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the same issue raised on several occasions, if I may just list them:

- The rehabilitation of the Double Road in Logwood at a cost of \$8,000,000;
- The construction of the access road to South Better Hope \$5,000,000;
- The rehabilitation of the second street in Success \$6,000,000; and
- The construction of first street South Melanie Damishana at a cost of \$7,000,000

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Elliot

Mr Ernest B Elliot: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1203500 - Buildings - Health - The Legend speaks to the rehabilitation of health centres at Buxton, Herstelling; construction of a living quarter at St Cuthbert's Mission ... If you are building a health centre and a living quarter at St Cuthbert's Mission, could the Honourable Minister say how much money will be allocated for the construction of this building at St Cuthbert's Mission and the allocation to the Herstelling and Buxton buildings?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I must say that all listed is rehabilitation. Actually the \$3,000,000 earmarked this year is to complete the Buxton Health Centre. The rehabilitation of the Herstelling Health Centre will be done at the cost of \$4.5 million and at St Cuthbert's

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Mission the living quarters for the nurse, midwife and community health worker will be done at a cost of \$6.5 million.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Project Profile 1203300 - Buildings - Education - I think there is a sum of \$38,000,000, the Legend says construction of training centre and rehabilitation of nursery and primary schools and the line item will take you to Project Profile 243 - Would the Minister say whether any consideration is given to the completion of that building at the back of Buxton that was part of the projected training centre that is now left like a white elephant without the building is included. I ask you this, because I see you have *includes*, you see this is the difference.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I understand, the point is taken, can I answer the question?

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Yes

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, that was a very important project undertaken some years ago, I think it started in 2002. We have taken a decision that we are going to allocate an adequate sum of money to complete the Practical Instruction Centre in Buxton and we have identified \$10,000,000 to do so this year.

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Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$140,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 326 and 327

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 751 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,682,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice Programme 751 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 74 - Region 4: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 751 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$39,682,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 328 and 329

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 752 - Agriculture

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$80,100,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice Programme 752 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Jennifer Wade: Mr Chairman ...

The Chairman: Yes, Honourable Member please proceed

Ms Jennifer Wade: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - I note in the Project Profile that the areas are listed, but can the Minister say the cost attached to each area? Page 328

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, Page 328 - Maintenance of Roads.- \$7,200,000. What is the question please?

Ms Jennifer Wade: Can the Minister say the cost attach to each area? *[Pause]* Mr Chairman, sorry, I have been getting some details.

- The embankment at Perth/Biabu from Broomlands to Davis 3,600 rods will be undertaken at a cost of \$2.4 million;
- The Basket Pimplier embankment 2,000 rods - \$1,200,000;
- The Pandit Canal embankment in the Mahaica Creek 918 rods - \$600,000; and

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- The maintenance of the Champagne Branch Road - slashing of the shoulders, et cetera, at a cost of \$3,000,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Ms Wade

Ms Jennifer Wade: Mr Minister, the same goes for Bridges also and the D and I Works - Account Codes 6252 and 6253.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - \$1,500,000 will be used to maintain the Industry main canal and another \$1,500,000 will be used in Ithaca to do some work in the main canal. Under the D and I there is quite a number of works to be undertaken to the cost of \$48,000,000.

Mr Chairman, if you will bear with me this is quite a lot of details, but if the Member is asking for them, it will take some time to read them out.

- The Industry Canal 2,400 rods - \$1,400,000;
- Wash Clothes 2,300 rods - \$1,400,000;
- Biabu 600 rods - \$372,000;
- Rutherford Canal 1,100 rods - \$ 682,000;
- Basket/Pimplier Canal 1,800 rods - \$1,600,000;
- Wash Clothes Branch Canal 600 rods - \$372,000;

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- Pandit Canal - \$569,000
- Perth/Biabu Main Canal - \$1,900,000;
- Handsome Tree Canal 1,100 rods - \$700,000;
- Wash Clothes Stelling Canal 600 rods - \$372,000;
- Yankee Branch Canal 790 rods - \$489,000; and
- Poor Fellow Canal 700 rods - \$588,000

Those will cost \$11,000,000. There is another set at a cost of \$33,300,000:

- Blairmont - \$2,500,000
- Rosignol - \$2,500,000
- Bel Air/Woodlands - \$1,500,000
- Bath/Woodley Park - \$2,000,000
- Union - \$2,500,000
- Temple C Field - \$1,500,000
- Profit/Rising Sun - \$2,000,000
- Mahaicony/Abary - \$3,000,000
- Hamlet/Chance - \$2,000,000 and
- Woodlands/Farm - \$3,000,000.

In all it is \$48,000,000.

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Ms Jennifer Wade: Thank you Minister. Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Infrastructure - Can you please identify these infrastructures?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the sum estimated here is \$9,500,000 and the following works will be undertaken:

- Maintenance of the Bellamy Canal
- The Peter Persaud Sluice Door
- Rosignol Sluice Door
- D'Edward Sluice Door
- Basket Pimplier Sluice Door
- Wash Clothes Sluice Door
- Rehabilitation of 100 feet of revetment at Ithaca outfall
- Maintenance of sluices in the Mahaicony area; Zeskendren, Industry, Providence, Spooner, Fortitude, Mortice, Wash Clothes; all of those at the cost of \$4,900,000;
- Maintenance of the check sluices at No. 5 to purchase drainage tubes and self closing doors at a cost of \$1,100,000
- Repairs to the No.5 drainage tube again at Profit/Rising Sun NDC area at \$1,000,000;

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- Minor repairs and re-taring of revetment at Bellamy and the Mahaicony sluice at \$300,000
- Repairs to No.5 check sluice within Bath/Woodley Park - \$1,000,000 and
- Repairs to No. 5 check sluice within Blairmont at a cost of \$1,000,000.

Agency 74 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 752 - Agriculture - \$80,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 330 and 331

Continued in Part II ...(page 81)

National Assembly Debates

48th Sitting

14:00h

Friday 7 March 2008

Part II of III

Continued from Pt I of III

**AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE,
Programme 753 - Public Works**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,077,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice Programme 753 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Ms Wade

Ms Jennifer Wade: Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Can the Minister say where these buildings and how many for maintenance work?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman \$7.6 million has been identified to do the following maintenance work on buildings on the Mahaica No. 5 Region:

- The RDC Main Office at Fort Wellington - minor plumbing and electrical works to the done, replacement of doors, windows and ceiling at the cost of \$600,000;
- The RDC Annexe Office in Fort Wellington, this houses the Accounts and Engineering Departments - minor works here again in plumbing, electrical

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fittings, doors, windows and servicing of the roof at a cost of \$2,000,000. Hopefully all these works that I am referring to will be completed between June and July;

- Repairs to the RDC Sub-Office in Mahaicony - general rehabilitation of the lower floor and to upgrade the toilet facilities at a cost of \$3,000,000;
- The Guest House and the Resource Centre at Fort Wellington - here again some minor repairs to the plumbing and lighting fixtures and some work also to be done to the fence of the compound at a cost of \$500,000; and lastly
- The living quarters for the Officers will attract some amount of maintenance especially to the plumbing and repairs to some doors and windows.

Agency 74 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 753 - Public Works - \$100,077,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 332 and 333

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 754 - Education Delivery

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$696,904,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice Programme 754 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Amna Ally

Ms Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6273 - Water Charges - Could the Minister say whether included in this sum here is the reconnection or is he providing water for the Hopetown PIC?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, the PIC is included in this. There will be a number of entities that will benefit from the supply of potable water for which this money is intended to pay the Bills.

Ms Amna Ally: Thank you Mr Minister. Mr Chairman, 6283 - Maintenance of Buildings - Could the Minister say whether included in this sum would be ... *[Interruption]*

Hon Khellawan Lall: That is Cleaning and Extermination Services

Ma Amna Ally: ... they will address the bat infested schools in Region 5

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this sum is allocated to deal with sum of those issues, bats, rodents and all these different kind of things. I do not know exactly which institutions they live in, but generally speaking to engage the services of these extermination companies to deal with those problems.

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Ms Amna Ally: Thank you Mr Minister, I hope that will be soon lest our children will get very sick in those areas.

Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 - Other ... I see under Other close to \$20,000,000 and Account Code 6294 - Other - Could the Minister tell us what Other means?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this sum is to take care of payments to invigilators and other officials who will be dealing with external exams.

Agency 74 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 754 - Education Delivery - \$696,904,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 334 and 335

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 755 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$191,034,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice Programme 755 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Murray

Mr Winston S Murray: Minister, could you say under contracted employees who are these three; what are the categories of these three and their emoluments, please?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the three are:

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- The Regional Chairman (RHO) who is contracted at a sum of \$204,000;
- There is a nursing assistant who is being paid the sum of \$35,000; and
- A driver who attracts the same salary.

Mr Winston S Murray: Okay.

Agency 74 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 755 - Health Services - \$191,034,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 467

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE -Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 193,285,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, again I am confused with the word *includes* so I have to ask the Minister under Project Code 1300900 - Drainage and

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Irrigation - Project Profile 255 - \$46,000,0000 - the question is whether these drainage and irrigations works are being managed by the MMA or by the Ministry?

Secondly, whether the areas identified in the profile indicate the only areas that will be rehabilitated?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, the ones that are there are included in the programme. Here again, there is room for this misunderstanding that it will be more, but for this particular instance, it is just those that are listed there. These works are being undertaken and monitored by the Regional Administration.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Not the MMA?

Hon Khellawan Lall: No.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: May I then ask no proposals are there for any works in Ithaca, where I am aware there are some drainage problems?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I think I mentioned that already. Under the current budget some maintenance works will be done to several infrastructures in Ithaca. I think I mentioned them already. There is nothing new under the capital budget, but there are lots of programmes in Ithaca for several things.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Alright, I hear you.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Ms Ally

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Ms Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Project Code 2503800 - Furniture - Education - Project Profile 259 - Could the Minister say what quantity of type A, B and C desks and benches will be purchased. I do not want separately but altogether?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, we will be purchasing:

- 150 dual type A, B and C desks and benches at a cost of \$1.32 million;
- 610 combination chairs (I suppose you know what that is) at \$3.0 million;
- 20 teachers desks and chairs;
- 55 nursery sets; and
- 50 school cupboards at a cost of \$1.63 million.

Agency 74 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$193,285,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 342 and 343

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**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 761 - Regional
Administration and Finance**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$62,244,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 761 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne,
Programme 761 - Regional Administration and
Finance - \$62,244,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand
part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Pages 344 and 345

**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 762 - Agriculture**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$318,180,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 762 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

Dr John Austin: Mr Chairman, directed to the Honourable Minister, I would like to know whether Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - if there is any plans to do work at the

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front lands distributaries including areas like Manchester, Whim, et cetera.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the answer is yes, the front lands are included. In fact, it is 44.4 miles on that.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 762 - Agriculture - \$318,180,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 346 and 347

**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 763 - Public Works**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$107,766,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 763 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 763 - Public Works - \$107,766,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 348 and 349

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**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 764 - Education
Delivery**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,370,501,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 764 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Austin

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Honourable Minister state what are the categories and salaries of the three contracted employees?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The three categories are the REO, the Driver and the Librarian for the Corentyne Comprehensive. The salaries are respectively \$190,000; \$35,000 and \$45,000.

**Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne,
Programme 764 - Education Delivery - \$1,370,501,000
- agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Pages 350 and 351

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**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 765 - Health Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$665,303,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 765 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne,
Programme 765 - Health Services - \$665,303,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Page 468

**AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/
CORENTYNE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency
Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 261,225,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Cornetyne - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Austin

Dr John Austin: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1200400 - Buildings -Health - Can the honourable Minister say

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whether there are any plans to construct or provide dining hall for the staff of Mibikuri Hospital?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, no, specifically this programme here does not cater for that.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Project Code 1401000 - Roads - \$47,000,000 - Would the Honourable Minister be good enough to advise whether in the allocations as outline in the Project Profile ... I do not want to go through it as you have it there Crabwood Creek, No 64, No 65 ... I am more interested in how much is going to be allocated to those various areas whether there is a fixed sum already and if I could know them.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, here is a fixed sum attached to the identified areas that got to be upgraded. Some of these are rolled-over programmes from last year and for instance:

- Kilcoy/Fyrish Dam - \$700,000;
- Orealla Siparuta Road as upgraded - \$471,000 that is a roll-over;
- Another roll-over is the No. 63 Old Road and DBST - \$500,000;
- Second Cross Street at No. 64, that is another \$500,000;
- Port Mourant, Carlos Street - \$2,900,000;

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- Crabwood Creek, Back Street Grant 1805 - \$3,500,000;
- Middle Walk, No 64 - \$4,200,000;
- Johanna, that is DBT - \$4,500,000;
- Yakusari - \$3,700,000;
- Johns more particularly the fourth Cross Street - \$4,200,000;
- Fifth Cross Street, Johns \$4,200,000;
- Upgrading of the Primary School Street in Cumberland - to a DBST level 1100 by 10 - \$5,900,000;
- Upgrading of the First Cross Street in Bush Lot - \$6,000,000; and
- Upgrading of the School Lane into the Fyrish Nursery School at a cost of \$6,200,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I am sorry - Upgrading of the road in Fyrish, is this burnt earth surface or is it a sealed road?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It should be bituminous surface - double - DBST

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Austin

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Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, Project Code 1401000 - Roads - Will the Honourable Minister state if there are any plans to upgrade the roads in Dukes Town, Corriverton?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I just relate an exhaustive list of roads that will be done under this programme here. That one is not included there.

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, this one is referring to the recurring problem of project specific capital expenditure ... Could the Honourable Minister state if there are any plans to improve the durability of these upgraded roads beyond the average period of about eight months?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, here again there are some technical questions, I do not want to get into it, but generally speaking I am advised that given the sums allocated and the length and size of the street and the kind of traffic that we have on these streets, they will be in good working conditions for about three with minimal amount of maintenance.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Austin

Dr John Austin: Mr Chairman, through you, Project Code 2402000 - Land Transport - I would like to know if the sum of money budgeted there includes the cost of purchasing an ambulance of the Port Mourant Hospital.

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Hon Khellawan Lall: No, Mr Chairman, I would prefer if my friend could ask me what it is for rather than ask me what it is not for.

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, could the Honourable Minister state which category of workers would be provided cycles?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The Community Health Workers.

Dr John Austin: Mr Chairman, through you Project Code 2504100 - Furniture and Equipment - Education - could the Honourable state whether any of the furniture and equipment bought would be for any of the Secondary Schools in Region 6?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, certainly, quite a number of Secondary Schools.

Dr John Austin: Could the Honourable Minister state the names of the Secondary Schools that will be provided with furniture or if that is too long, the names of the Secondary Schools which would not be provided with furniture; whichever list is shorter?

Hon Khellawan Lall: That is very easy to answer. In fact, I am being advised that all the Secondary Schools are included under this programme.

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, Project Code 2504300 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - Could the Honourable Minister state which part of the Health Sector in Region 6 would be provided with a refrigerator?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: This programme does not cater for a refrigerator for any part of Region 6.

Dr John Austin: It is in the Profile Page No. 272

Hon Khellawan Lall: The details of that included two refrigerators, one for Fyrish and one for Bush Lot.

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, could the Honourable Minister state whether an ECG machine would be provided for Skeldon Hospital?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Perhaps, but certainly not under my programme. I do not know the details of the Ministry of Health's Programme in terms of purchasing of equipment, but under this programme of the Region, I do not think that it caters for an ECG, but one is targeted for the New Amsterdam Hospital.

Dr John Austin: Mr Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to Profile Page No. 272.

Hon Khellawan: No, you did not ask me about New Amsterdam. I am saying that one is targeted for New Amsterdam.

Dr John Austin: Through the Chair, New Amsterdam already has an ECG machine that is why I am asking about Skeldon Hospital. Skeldon does not have any.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I am stating a fact. I do not want to get into any issue whether we need one at Skeldon. I am stating a fact that this money is catering

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for based on the question asked of me that there is going to be the purchase of an ECG piece of equipment for the New Amsterdam hospital.

Dr John Austin: Thank you for the answer, Mr Minister. Through the Chair, would an ECG machine be provided for the Port Mourant Hospital?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Not under this specific item here.

Dr John Austin: Thank you for that answer. One last question about the ECG machine; would one be provided for Mibicuri hospital?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Perhaps, but certainly not under this programme.

The Chairman: Honourable Member, unless you stand promptly and ask your question promptly, I am going to leave you behind. Time is running out for you not for me. I have lots of it.

Dr John Austin: I am sorry about that Mr Chairman. My last question - Project Code 25042000 - Furniture and Equipment - Administration - I would like to know - could the Honourable Minister state where the computer will be allocated.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am advised that the computer will be placed in the Regional Accounting Unit.

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Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$261,225,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 356 and 357

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 771 -Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$80,512,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs David-Blair

Mrs Judith David- Blair: Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - Two for 2007 and two for 2008 and I see an increase. The budget for 2007 was \$825,000 and then it was revised for \$245,000 and now I see a vast increase of \$825,000. Can the Minister say what are those positions and their emoluments?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the positions are:

- One Overseer; and
- One Clerk/Stenographer.

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The increase here is to cater for the increase in wages and salaries.

Mrs Judith David- Blair: The salaries?

Hon Khellawan Lall: \$40,000 and \$25,000.

Mrs Judith David-Blair: Thank you, Mr Minister. Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 -Security Services - Can the Minister name the service and state if this money includes the overtime that is due to the security services during 2007?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is RK security service and this money is to take care of the contracted sum for this year.

Mrs Judith David-Blair: A supplementary - Based on the complaints I have been receiving, a lot of these workers have not received their overtime for 2007; on signing your contract or issuing your tender or deciding on who is your contracted worker for this year, did you include this sum here?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I made a broad statement earlier; this is a private security firm and they employed people based on their own arrangements; I mean we can raise the matter with them on whatever outstanding sums they have in terms of overtime or the rates at which they pay employees. We really do not get involved. We have a sum to pay. I suppose if the employees have not been paid, they should go to the Ministry of Labour and raise

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the matter, but really we cannot dictate to the company those terms.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman through you, could the Honourable Minister say whether he has any outstanding payments to these security firms?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Not that I am aware of, Mr Chairman.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$80,512,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 358 and 359

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 772 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$105,195,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 772 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs David-Blair

Mrs Judith David-Blair: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - I see an allocated sum of \$21,000,000 and when I go to the Profile Page 276 and I

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see the total project cost is \$15,000,000. *[Pause]* Sorry, Mr Chairman.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 772 - Public Works - \$105,195,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 360 and 361

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 773 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$443,849,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 773 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 773 - Education Delivery - \$443,849,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 362 and 363

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 774 - Health Services

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$205,544,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 774 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 774 - Health Services - \$205,544,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 469

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$96,750,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$96,750,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Honourable Members, the time is now 5.00 o'clock. We have three Regions left, what we can do is to leave them hanging for the time being and if we

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have time at the end or during the course of the other Ministries, we can come back to them. [*Interruption: 'No, no, no, let us finish them off.'*] That is a matter for the House, Honourable Members. That is just a proposal; I do not have the authority to make a ruling. That is what we did yesterday; if you do not wish to follow that procedure today, which is a matter for the Members of the House. It is totally up to you. In the mean time, I leave you to consider it. It is now time for the suspension, so we will suspend for half an hour.

17:00H - SUSPENSION OF SITTING

15:48H - RESUMPTION OF SITTING

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman: Honourable Members, when you hear the Bell start ringing, could you please as early as possible return to the Chamber, because we cannot start unless we have a quorum and when Members delay, I cannot come out, because we have no quorum and for the same reason, we normally start after two o'clock most days. I am usually ready to come out at two o'clock, but most days at two o'clock there is no quorum in the House, so we cannot start, we have to wait. As a result of that we started at 2.15 this afternoon and therefore I think it is only fair that we give the extra fifteen minutes

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without any breach of our procedures for that reason. We give the extra fifteen minutes for consideration of the first item that we were doing. So I will therefore continue start with Region 8 and when those fifteen minutes are up, we can then see what position we can take. So if the Minister can gather his advisers for Region 8.

The Chairman: Pages 368 and 369

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 781 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$34,952,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 781 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 -Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Honourable Minister say at what level these scholarships or training are taking place; is it at the tertiary level, postgraduate or undergraduate studies?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, this amount is being allocated for internal training mainly in the Accounts Division.

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Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 781 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$34,952,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 370 and 371

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 782 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$69,921,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 782 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6254 - Maintenance of Sea and River Defences - we have \$3,000,000 budgeted for that item - Could the Honourable Minister say particularly for river defence where that would be located?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, the \$3,000,000 is for the three miles Tumatumari Bridge - 1,000 feet - at a cost of \$2,000,000 and the Kowa access bridge revetment - 500 feet - at the cost of \$1,000,000

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Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 782 - Public Works - \$ 69,921,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 372 and 373

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 783 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$195,377,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 783 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, could the Honourable Minister say what categories are the two contracted employees are referred to in COA 6116?

Hon Khellawan Lall: There are two project trust teachers who earn basic monthly of \$50,000.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 783 - Education Delivery - \$195,377,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 374 and 375

**AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI,
PROGRAMME 784 - Health Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$88,814,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 784 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say under Staffing Details - Other Technical and Craft Skilled - there is a substantial increase, what are some of the categories of these employees?

Hon Khellawan Lall: What is the code?

Dr George A Norton: COA 6113

Hon Khellawan Lall: This is for the employment of four new Community Health Workers.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 784 - Health Services - \$ 88,814,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 470

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AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI -
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,728,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1100800 - Bridges ... Could the Honourable Minister say the two bridges at Anandabaru and Emuku what type of bridges are they, wooden or concrete?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Two wooden heavy duty bridges.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1401200 - Roads - There is a purchase of a tractor; can the Honourable Minister say which village that tractor would be allocated to?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It will not be located to any particular village; it is to do road works in the region.

Dr George A Norton: Just a follow-up - Would it be Sub-Region 1 or Sub-Region 2?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Sub-Region 2

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

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Dr George A Norton: Similarly under Project Code 2402200 - Land and Water Transport - The Legend says purchase of vehicle; could the Honourable Minister say which of the Sub-Regions that vehicle would be allocated to?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It would be two Mahdia and PK

Dr George A Norton: Two vehicles?

Hon Khellawan Lall: One is an ATV and one is an open back - two vehicles.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$100,728,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 382 and 383

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 791 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$63,428,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 791 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

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Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 791 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$63,428,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 384 and 385

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 792 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$10,080,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 792 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 792 - Agriculture - \$10,080,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 386 and 387

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 793 - Public Works

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$75,779,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 793 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Staffing Details COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - Health Services - what are the categories of these two contracted employees?

Hon Khellawan Lall: This is Public Works.

Dr George A Norton: I am sorry about that one.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 793 - Public Works - \$75,779,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 388 and 389

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 794 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$377,260,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 794 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

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Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/ Upper Essequibo, Programme 794 - Education Delivery - \$377,260,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 390 and 391

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 795 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$147,222,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 795 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, this is where I asked the question - the two categories of contracted employees under health services.

Hon Khellawan Lall: A medex and a staff nurse.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Just a follow-up - Could you say where they will be stationed?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Lethem and Aishalton.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 795 - Health Services -

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\$147,222,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 471

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO -CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$190,257,000 for Agency 79 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 1100900 - Bridges - The Legends says completion and construction of bridges, in the Profile it is mentioned the Moco-Moco Creek, could the Honourable Minister say how many bridges are planned for that particular Creek?

Hon Khellawan Lall: A single bridge at a cost of \$11,800,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, project Code 2402400 - Water Transport - The Legend says purchase of boat, outboard engine and the jackets - Can the

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Honourable Minister say which of the villages would enjoy these benefits?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Sand Creek, Mr Chairman.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 795 - Health Services - \$190,257,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Honourable Members, we can now move to the next region.

Pages 396 and 397

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 801 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$91,227,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 801 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Ms Kissoon

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Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - I notice that there are three employees for 2008, could the Honourable Minister say the categories of contracted employees and the emoluments for each?

Hon Khellawan Lall: They are:

- One DREO;
- One Driver mechanic; and
- One Office Assistant

The salary for the DREO is \$147,000; \$35,000 for the Driver and \$35,000 for the Office Assistant.

Question put

The Chairman: You are not finished?

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: No Sir.

The Chairman: Sorry, go ahead; you have to be swift, Miss.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: I was standing; you were not looking.

The Chairman: Oh, sorry, my apologies. *[Laughter]*

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Accepted, Mr Chairman.

Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I notice that there is an increase; I would just like the Honourable

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Minister to say whether it increases for salaries or is it an intake?

Hon Khellawan Lall: This is the actual sum tendered and by the person who won the bid.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 801 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$91,227,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 398 and 399

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 802 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$99,466,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 802 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Ms Kissoon:

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Honourable Minister state who is the contracted employee and I would like to know what is the reason for not having this employee on the traditional establishment?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: They are employing this year is the Regional Engineer at a salary \$147,000 per month. It is the same reason where most of these young engineers, they are opting not for the fixed establishment

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 802 - Public Works - \$99,466,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 400 and 401

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 803 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 871,818,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 803 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 803 - Education Delivery - \$871,818,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 402 and 403

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**AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/
UPPER BERBICE, Programme 804 - Health Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$159,403,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 804 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 804 - Health Services - \$159,403,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 472

**AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/
UPPER BERBICE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE -
Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 149,500,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Ms Kissoon

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1205200 - Buildings -Education - Could the Honourable

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Minister give a breakdown of how much money will be spent on each of the schools. I know that there are three schools Kwakwani Secondary; Mackenzie High and Amelia's Ward Nursery according to the Project Profile.

Hon Khellawan Lall: The McKenzie High School will be done at the cost of \$17,500,000 - three hundred students; the Nursery School at Amelia's Ward will cost \$4,500,000 and the Kwakwani Secondary School in Berbice \$9,000,000.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say what works are planned for the McKenzie High School - just a brief description of the works?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is extension - extending the school to accommodate more students - a completely new wing will be attached to the school.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A follow-up question, Mr Chairman. Is this an extension of the main school or the Lichas Hall? It is important for some other implications.

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is a new wing of the old school.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Ms Kissoon

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Project Code 1401400 - Roads - Could the Honourable Minister say how much money will be spent on the roads that are catered for under the

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project - each road - how much money will be spent out of the \$31,000,000?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The upgrading of the Linden/Kwakwani Road will cost \$7,700,000;

The Blue Berry Hill/St Aiden's Road in Wismar - \$9,000,000;

Amelia's Ward - \$9,000,000; and

Kara Kara /Old Guyana Stores Road, Mackenzie - \$8,000,000

The Chairman: Ms Kissoon and then Mr Norton

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: A follow-up, Mr Chairman, in the case of the Linden/Kwakwani Road will the Honourable say the amount allocated will complete the works there?

Hon Khellawan Lall: This sum has been allocated to do some maintenance work, but I understand LEAP has a programme to complete that road and the Ministry of Public Works.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Okay, a follow-up - Could the Honourable Minister say what level of upgrading would be done to the Linden/Kwakwani Road?

Hon Khellawan Lall: The sum deals with some patching and so forth, to keep it to a level and the other programmes through the Ministry of Public Works and LEAP will complete this road, but at the moment the

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region will be responsible to keep it at a particular level - upgrading it.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Norton

Mr Aubrey C Norton: You said patching on the Linden/Kwakwani Road. Did I hear you clearly; did you say patching on the Linden/Kwakwani Road? As I understand it, this road is an over-burdened road unless you are upgrading it to a paved road. What kind of patching would be done there?

Hon Khellawan Lall: Maintenance, I am sorry if I use the word patching; it is maintenance..

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 1901700 - Infrastructural Development - the Project entails rehabilitation of a road at Katapul Creek... I mean I know the Katapul Creek fairly well and a bridge goes over the Creek, but which road are you rehabilitating? Is it Burnham Drive, which road?

Hon Khellawan Lall: It is the rehabilitation of the main road not the bridge; it is either ... they call it the Katapul Creek Road. *[Noisy Interruption]* ...

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, I think we need to be clear here. Recently a bridge was built over the Katapul Creek; Is it the bridge you are looking at or are you doing work on the road?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I am advised that this money is to do a bituminous road 300 feet mainly across the bridge - both access and the bridge itself.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I hate to make it look as if we are nit-picking on this matter, but this is a very serious matter to the extent that millions of dollars were spent allegedly to build a bridge which almost collapsed against advice given. What I am asking the Minister on this very issue is whether the works to be carried out under sum of (let me see the exact amount) \$9,000,000 or thereabout will be done by a contractor that will have penalty clauses for substandard work.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Yes, Mr Chairman, we will see that that does not happen and I do not particularly like the statement made by Mr Corbin that the bridge nearly collapsed. I do not have any information to that effect.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I think you are near to persons who can give you proper advice. There was even an accident where a car ran off on the bridge after a simple rainfall, where the whole road collapsed in the Katapulhi Creek. So I am not guessing it, the whole road collapsed at the edge of the bridge.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Sir that is a different story.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I want to go to another item - Project Code 2404300 - Land and Water Transport -

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Education - I would like to know if this is related to the purchase of a vehicle for the Regional Chairman and Vice-Chairman who have been without adequate transportation to service their constituency, while all the other Regions controlled by PPP/C Chairmen have been provided with proper and satisfactory transportation.

[Applause]

Hon Khellawan Lall: I take note of the point made by Mr Corbin. I know that the Regional Chairman has a vehicle probably not a brand new one. This sum is allocated to buy a minibus for the Education Office in Linden.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Ms Kisson

Ms Vanessa Kisson: Mr Chairman, Project Code 2505400 - Furniture and Equipment - Education - Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly which schools will benefit?

Hon Khellawan Lall: There are several items to be purchased under this heading:

- Fax Machines;
- Storage Cabinets,
- Network Printer;
- Water Dispenser;
- Computer;

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- Tables and Chairs

The primary schools in Linden and Kwakwani ... Mr Chairman, there are several schools, I do not have the list of all of them here, but basically it is to service primary, secondary and nursery schools in the Linden/Kwakwani area. I do not know the exact amount of which will go where. I can provide that information

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: I did not ask for the amount; I asked to name the schools. Name the Schools not the amount. I do not expect you to give me the amount.

Hon Khellawan Lall: I can supply that information at a later time; I do not have the list of all the schools that will benefit.

Ms Vanessa Kissoon: Thank you.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I return to the Project Code on roads 1401000, where the Minister on a previous answer suggested that \$7,700,000 will be spent on the Linden/Kwakwani Road and to some heckling he suggested the Ministry of Works was also going to be doing some work on this road. My question is whether this \$7,700,000 will money well spent having regard to the perennial problems associated with this road that goes to a vital chute of the country, which caused the residents of Kwakwani to picket and demonstrate on more than one occasion and on which the kind of surface that is being

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prepared is prone to destruction with the heavy rainfall that occurs at least twice per year and whether it would not be wise to think of a more concrete proposal even if you do four miles per year of a proper road. So my question is whether this \$7,700,000 is being properly spent.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, there is a project coming on stream very soon not under this Ministry in excess of \$100,000,000 to do the Kwakwani/Linden Road. In the mean time just to be on the safe side, we are putting a particular sum of money in the regional budget to maintain it to a standard until that project kicks in.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I am pleased with the proposal; I am happy about the announcement; my only question is how soon?

Hon Khellawan Lall: I am really keeping abreast with that development, but I hope that it will be soon.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Soon - a year/two years/five years?

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Norton

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, through you to the Minister, could you say if the work that is being done now is being done as part of foundation work for a paved road later or is it the same way of adjusting it and the rain will wash it away?

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Hon Khellawan Lall: This is just maintenance and a little bit of emergency works to maintain it to a particular level so that it can passable until the major work is started. That is what it is for; it is not for doing any major work.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Norton

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman through you, I just want to ask the Minister if he does not think that money will be better spent if the work is done in a way that you are preparing the base for a paved road rather than the process of (want of a used word) rehabilitation and by the time the rains come they go.

Hon Khellawan Lall: Mr Chairman, I think I am going to finish this story here. I do not intend to answer for anybody else; I am answering for my Ministry. I have \$7,700,000 to do some minor maintenance of the road. I understand that there is a \$20,000,000 at the Ministry of Public Works to do some major repairs right now to bring it to a level. The LEAP Project is going to complete that road, but I am dealing with my Ministry, I have a small sum of money to keep it going in the mean time.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$149,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Thank you very much, Honourable Members. We are finished with the Regions ten minutes above the estimated time, but I think that was good work on the part of all Members and Honourable Minister we would like to thank you for your cooperation.

We can now move at twenty-one Minutes past six to the next agency.

18:21H

Pages 168 and 169

AGENCY 45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER, PROGRAMME 451 - Housing and Water

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 489,780,000 for Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 451 - Housing and Water - stands part of the Estimates

Mr Keith Scott: Page 168 - Account Code 6131 - Other Direct Labour Cost - What is meant by other direct labour cost? What is the justification for \$5,400,000 allocated in 2008 as against the previous amount of \$247,000 the year before and what are the staffing details to justify such a large amount of money.

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The Chairman: Honourable Member, the proposal here is that Agency 45 - Programme 451 stands part of the Estimates.

Proceed Honourable Minister. *[Laughter]*

Mr Keith Scott: My apology, Sir.

The Chairman: That is okay.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6131 is to cater for the additional payment of the nine percent increase, overtime for drivers, acting allowances paid and other responsibility allowances for the direct labour cost.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Murray

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, my question relate to Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - Mr Minister, are the two organisations Guyana Water Inc. with just \$250,000 and Central Housing and Planning Authority \$200,000? If they are, then these are my questions:

With respect to Central Housing and Planning Authority, are you aware that the last audited accounts are in respect of the year 2002 and without the audited accounts how are you satisfied that the subvention being given to this Agency is properly spent?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Amounts are subsidies for GWI and CH&PA; we re satisfied that the money is

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properly spent, because at the end of the year any remaining funds under that subvention are returned to the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Winston S Murray: Through you Sir, , with great respect to the Minister, how could you equate the fact of return of some money to the Consolidated Fund to the Ministry of Finance as necessarily evidencing propriety of expenditure. I do not understand that because the propriety of expenditure relates to what has been spent and not what has been returned. Are you aware that the Auditor General's Report of the year 2005 said that in the absence of the audited accounts; it could not be determined whether this amount was properly expended and how therefore are you satisfied?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Mr Chairman, I suppose we will have to wait until the audited accounts are done for those years to determine whether those amounts have been properly expended or not, but in the mean time we have our own internal checks that we do to determine the adequacy of the expenditure that has been made.

Mr Winston S Murray: Through you Mr Chairman, Mr Minister don't you believe that as part of your improvement in transparency and accountability that you should urge this Agency to get those accounts in to the Auditor General as early as practicable and if you so believe, how soon do you think those accounts are going to be ready for auditing?

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Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: In fact we are working towards getting all audited accounts brought up to date to the current period. I would not be able to say when, but we hope to get them done early next year so that they would be current.

Mr Winston S Murray: Through you Mr Chairman, with respect to the Guyana Water Inc., is the Honourable Minister aware that the Auditor General gave a qualified audit statement with respect to this Agency for the year 2005 and what assurance can he give this National Assembly that the situations which caused a qualified audit statement to be issued in 2005 will not re-occur in 2008 and could he tell what are the areas of qualification?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The area of qualification had to do with billings and a number of reasons, but I could give the House the assurance that we are working towards having an unqualified a clean report for the year 2007.

**Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water,
Programme 451 - Housing and Water - \$489,780,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Pages 450 and 451

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AGENCY 45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,696,400,000 for Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 45 - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$4,696,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

We will now move to the next Agency

Pages 172 and 173

AGENCY 46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION, PROGRAMME 461 - Public Hospital

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,692,338,000 for Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Programme 461 - Public Hospital - stands part of the Estimates

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The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies - There is an increase of \$8,000,000 for janitorial and cleaning supplies at the Georgetown Hospital; could the Minister explain this increase?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, under that Account Code, we are re-tendering for the janitorial service for the hospital. In addition, new buildings will become operative in 2008 - the public health lab will start working in June and so we are catering for the increase activities.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - while we do have a reduction in contracted employees from 145 to 140 yet there is an increase in the budgeted amount of \$8,000,000, could the Minister explain this for us please.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: While it is true that the filled positions showed a decrease, we are hoping to fill some more of those consultant positions and that caters for it.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister explain the increase in Account Code 6281 - Security Services - of \$10,000,000.

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Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Yes, once again this is going through the tendering process. However there is another explanation; you would notice that we have been using less than allocated and that is because the contracted security service provided less than they are supposed to. For example, if they have fifty sites around the hospital sometimes they do not place security officers. We pay them not according to the contract, but according to the number of people they place. We are hoping that this year when we re-tender that we will hold them a little bit more rigidly to the number to the number of people that they need to place.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, can the Honourable Minister say whether the \$7,000,000 allotted under Account Code 6302 - Scholarship (Including Training) - if it involves post graduate training?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: This involves some support to post graduate training locally.

**Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation,
Programme 461 - Public Hospital - \$2,692,338,000 -
agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

The Chairman: Page 452

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AGENCY 46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC
HOSPITAL CORPORATION - Capital Expenditure -
Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 136,500,000 for Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Under Project Code 1209900 - Buildings - the Legend says upgrading of water and electrical systems - could the Honourable Minister say if the upgrading of electrical systems would permit an automatic switch over when there are power outages especially in areas like the operating theatre, where we have to wait for sometimes fifteen minutes.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The answer is yes. If fact, I think Dr Norton knows about this; so yes that will be the major work done.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Project Code 4500202 - Equipment - the Legend says purchase of furniture and equipment, can the Honourable Minister state whether this will be used to furnish and equip the darkroom that is so necessary for the functioning of the visual field apparatus that has been lying in the hospital there since 2006?

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Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The answer is yes

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Project Code 45002003 - Equipment - Medical - the Legend says purchase of medical equipment - could the Minister say if this would cater for buying both the orthopaedic and the neurosurgery instrument that is so needed in the hospital?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The orthopaedic equipment was already purchased from the 2007 allocation and it includes across-the-board improvement of the surgical capacity of th hospital.

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, in the purchase of equipment and material the Profile states the purchasing of an operating table bearing in mind that there is need for four operating tables in the main operating theatre of the Georgetown hospital. With this one that the budget spoke of, be the table that will allow for the neurosurgeon to operate?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The total operating table infrastructures in all of the operating rooms are being upgraded and in fact a couple have already been placed; one is right now in the country and this will complete the replacement?

Dr George A Norton: On the same Project Code 4500203 - Purchase of medial equipment - it was mentioned that they would purchase some trolleys, could

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the Minister say if this is what is referred to in our countries as gurneys or if it is that which is used in other sections of the hospital.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: In fact the trolleys are catered for under Project Code 45002002.

Dr George A Norton: Just a follow-up - Is it that which takes the patients around the hospital or you are using this trolley for other uses?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: They are patients' trolleys.

Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$136,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 180 and 181

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 471 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$587,069,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 471 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6294 - Other Operating Expenses - Could the Minister

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say what these other operating expenses are that is budgeted \$20,000,000 more?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: This is for medical assistance and will provide for persons who need to access medical treatment abroad and locally that are not available in the public sector.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Once again, Mr Chairman, I ask the Honourable Minister if under Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) if this amount also catered for post graduates?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: No, under this one, this is local training. I might add that in case it comes up again ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Can the two of you settle this thing in the hospital; why you want to come here? *[Laughter]*

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The Scholarships for post graduate abroad comes under the Ministry of Public Service

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 471 - Ministry Administration - \$ 587,069,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 182 and 183

**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
PROGRAMME 472 - Disease Control**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$413,938,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 472 - Disease Control - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings - Can the Honourable say which buildings this Ministry are renting?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Under this programme a building is being rented for the Director of the GUM Clinic residence.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under this Programme - Disease Control - We can see under Staffing Details a reduction in the number of persons under Other Technical and Craft Skilled, Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled as well as contracted employees; in other words we have got a reduction in this particular programme. Could the Minister explain if he would be firing persons or not? *[Laughter]*

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Dr Norton is not being fired. Dr Norton does not fall under this programme

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anyway. Mr Chairman, 2008 positions represent those positions that are filled at this time. We are hoping that through the year others will be employed. I need to explain this also that sometimes some of these persons move over to some of the technical programmes that are funded by external agencies and are not in the Consolidate Fund. The US PEP Programme, for example pays for some of these staff, but they control the finances themselves.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 472 - Disease Control - \$413,938,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 184 and 185

**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
PROGRAMME 473 - Primary Health Care Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$320,240,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 473 - Primary Health Care Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, there is an increase in Senior Technical by one -

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Could the Minister say what category is this Senior Technical?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: This is the category that includes the:

- Director of Food and Nutrition Policy;
- Maternal Child Health Officer;
- Maxeoroficial Surgeon;
- Public Health Nutritionist and so on;

I am not quite sure which is the additional one, but that is the list. Oh no, I do know, the Director of the Environmental Health, Dr Asheek Sookdeo, who just return from UWI.

Dr George A Norton: Just a follow-up - Mr Chairman, in spite of that there is a reduction in the amount that is budgeted. Could the Minister explain?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: As I explained previously, some of the positions ... or the people now doing the jobs are being paid through our external grants, funding of which we do not control. So their salaries are being paid, say, by the US/CDC.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 473 - Primary Health Care Services - \$320,240,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

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The Chairman: Pages 186 and 187

**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
PROGRAMME 474 - Regional and Clinical Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,386,090,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 474 - Regional and Clinical Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details COA 6116 - Contracted Employee - Could the Minister say that extra contracted employee what category would be fall under?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: It is Co-ordinator of the Indigenous Health Services

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 474 - Regional and Clinical Services - \$1,386,090,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 188 and 189

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**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
PROGRAMME 475 - Health Sciences Education**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 296,845,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 475 - Health Sciences Education - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, can the Honourable Minister mention to us of the local training programmes that he has under this Health Science Education Programme?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: It is a long list:
[Interruption: 'Tell them.']

- Nursing;
- Medex;
- Community Health Workers;
- Community Dental Therapist;
- Dentex;
- Rehabilitation Assistance;
- Multi Purpose Technicians;
- Pharmacy Assistance and so on

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Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 475 - Health Science Education - \$296,845,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 190 and 191

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 476 - Standards and Technical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$194,054,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 476 - Standards and Technical Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 476 - Standards and Technical Services - \$194,054,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 192 and 193

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 477 - Rehabilitation Services

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$161,484,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 477 - Rehabilitation Services - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 477 - Rehabilitation Services - \$161,484,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 453

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,265,413,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Under Project Code 1201700 - Ministry of Health - Buildings - Could the Minister say ... we are referring to ophthalmology centres meaning that all this is mentioned in the different places ... are there going to be more than one ophthalmology centre in the country?

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Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: No, it is Diagnostic and Ophthalmology Centre. So there is one Ophthalmology Centre.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$2,765,413,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Thank you very much, Honourable Members. We can now move to the next Agency.

Pages 210 and 211

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 511 - Secretariat Services

Question is proposed that that sum of \$150,701,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, with my cap in hand I ask these questions of the Honourable Minister.

The Chairman: No objects are allow in the National Assembly

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you, Sir.

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Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - the Staffing Details show that we are moving from seventeen to twenty-three, could the Honourable Minister please inform us what are the positions that these contracted employees hold and also the six new positions that would come on stream now?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, the contract employees are twenty-four in number.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Are how many?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Twenty-four in number.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: So this is wrong

Hon Clement J Rohee: I think the Honourable Member wants to know the various positions.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes, please. Not the names, just the positions

Hon Clement J Rohee: No, I would not give the names in anyway.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Security breach, thank you.

Hon Clement J Rohee: They are:

- Permanent Secretary,
- Secretary, Parole Board;
- Assistant Secretary;
- Personal Assistant to the Minister;

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- Five Research Officers, those are the new Officers that will come on stream. We need to do a lot of research at the Ministry. [*Interruption: 'Holistic examination.' "That's right"*]
- Investigator;
- Head of Immigration Services Support;
- Head of the Public Sector Security Department;
- Statisticians;
- Driver,
- Confidential Secretary;
- Typist Clerks and
- Cleaner.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Can the Honourable Minister move into Temporary Employees Account Code 6117 - the positions of the two temporary employees? I see last year we had one and we are now moving into two.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, this position has to do with a relief Office Assistance and a cleaner

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister say whether the 158 positions have been filled for 2008 - if this is the authorised strength of the Secretariat?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. I am moving on to Account Code 6255 - Maintenance to Other Infrastructure - We see a movement from \$1,518,000 to \$4,011,000 - could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly through you, Sir, what maintenance, which buildings will benefit from this maintenance?

Hon Clement J Rohee: This is in relation to the repairing of the fence at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6294 - Other - You see that entire subhead - Other Operating Expenses - the figure is \$20,040,000 - but when you look at Other - 6294 - that alone is \$17,590,000, could the Honourable Minister say what is this, because really that is not the Other; the others are the other and this is now substantive?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, this has to do with activities for activities for community policing.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Am I correct, Sir, in understanding that the Minister is saying that the entire sum of \$17,590,000 is for operating expenses for the community group?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, \$14,000,000 is for the community policing group activities.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister indicate which community groups will benefit from this \$14,000,000?

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Hon Clement J Rohee: I suppose all of them would.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, I wonder if the Minister would be kind enough to be a little bit more definite than that. He can say no, but it will help if he can be more definite about it.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, all the community policing groups will benefit from this money

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could it ask the Minister, how many does all represent? When he says all, what does he mean? *[Pause]* If I can help to clarify; if I say all my family, I mean four people. So when I say all community groups if he can give us a number that is the answer that I am looking for.

Hon Clement J Rohee: We have 211 community policing groups with a membership of 3,967 members.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Excellent, thank you, very good.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Would the Honourable Minister be willing to provide the National Assembly at a later stage with a detail breakdown of how these allocations will go to the policing groups

Hon Clement J Rohee: I am not in a position to provide that information at this stage, Mr Chairman.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, I was very precise in my language that presupposes future so I will repeat.

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If in the future the Minister is disposed to providing this National Assembly with a breakdown of the two hundred of something and the actual allocation to each.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, those groups are always changing. There are active groups and inactive groups, so it depends on the stage and the point on which you request the information.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Is the Minister aware based on what he has just told us about that heading - Other - that the membership of the community groups exceed membership of the Guyana Police Force in this country? I just thought that I should draw that to his attention. I do not need an answer; he has answered already, but I am just drawing that to his attention.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - \$150,701,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 212 and 213

**AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 512 - Guyana Police Force**

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Question is proposed that that sum of \$4,474,373,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, 6116 - Contracted Employees - we see that moving from two to four, could the Honourable Minister indicate as on the previous occasion the position being held by these four people in 2008?

Hon Clement J Rohee: We have four contracted workers at the Guyana Police Force:

- The PRO;
- Two at the Office of Professional Responsibility; and
- The Pathologist

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 61133 ... Perhaps, if I could with your permission ... the Staffing Details, we see a figure of 3,685 - that is the total; Honourable Minister is that the full authorised strength of the Guyana Police Force?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The authorised established strength of the Guyana Police Force is 3,570

Mr E Lance Carberry: Could you repeat that?

Hon Clement J Rohee: 3,570

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could I then take it Honourable Minister, through you Sir, that the reports that are in the various papers that the Guyana Police Force is presently under-strength by sixteen percent is fallacious?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I do not know about sixteen percent. In my budget presentation, I said over a thousand.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Over a thousand ...

Hon Clement J Rohee: ... ranks

Mrs Deborah J Backer: ... understaffed

Hon Clement J Rohee: How then could you say, Honourable Minister, that basically when you said that we are at full strength based on the answer you have just provided us, because you are saying that full strength is 3,500 ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: I think the Minister said the authorised strength is three thousand and whatever the figure is; he did not say that the number is ... That is my understanding. I might be wrong; the Minister can correct me. My Understanding of what he said is that the authorised strength is three thousand odd ...

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes.

The Chairman: ... not that it had that number.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: So is the Minister now saying that he is over the authorised strength of the Guyana

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Police Force, because the figure here is 3, 685 unless there is a mistake somewhere.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, if I may clarify. The authorised strength of the Guyana Police Force 3,570; the actual strength which is different from the authorised strength is 2,852.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you. Mr Chairman, through you again - Account Code 6133 - Benefits and Allowances - we see a figure here \$737,960,000 - Could the Honourable Minister indicate whether this quite princely sum includes allowance for policemen and women when they are in line?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, this has nothing to do with in-line

Mrs Deborah J Backer: What the Honourable Minister in effort to assist me - if he is so inclined, Sir, indicate where I would find that figure?

Hon Clement J Rohee: In-line is formulated as a special project.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings - \$1,800,000 - not a big sum, but just that I could know what is going on and we could know what is going on. What building or buildings are covered under this head? This is rental of buildings

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Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, I was temporarily distracted by my colleagues at the back there. Could I get the question again?

The Chairman: Could you repeat the question Honourable Member?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Oh, you want me to repeat the question.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Rental of Buildings - Account Code 6241 - there is a figure of \$1,800,000, I am just asking what building or buildings is the police renting for this sum?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Those are buildings that we have to rent that we do not have accommodation for ranks for the police forces, places such as Bartica and Berbice.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: And Sir, to continue - Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - \$82,500,00 - Could the Honourable Minister say what buildings? Are these the police buildings; are these the police staff houses, if we can have some assistance?

Hon Clement J Rohee: These are basically police buildings.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other infrastructure - a figure of \$17,500,000 - having Account Code 6242 telling you

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about the maintenance of buildings and Account Code maintenance of other infrastructure, could the Honourable Minister share with this Honourable House what is this other infrastructure apart from buildings

Hon Clement J Rohee: Basically fences and bridges.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Honourable Minister, would these be bridges leading to and from police stations?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes

Mrs Deborah J Backer: It is good to see the Minister receiving the help of his colleagues as we continue Sir; it is good, it is a collective effort. Account Code 6271 - Telephone Charges - Does this figure of \$55,000,000 cover telephones in Police Stations and the supplementary question, if the answer is yes, is he satisfied that there are telephones per station, because sometimes we have complaints that it is engaged, we cannot get through, there is one number. So is he satisfied and is that figure to cover the existing telephones?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, this sum for telephones at police stations. The money is basically considered to be sufficient.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: But the supplementary question that I was asking the Minister, are you satisfied that there are sufficient telephones per station. That is the question, because I do not have a quarrel with the figure; we have no quarrel with the figure; we just want to know

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if there are adequate telephone systems in our police force.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, I do not think that it is the number of telephones that matters if I may respectfully say so, it is ensuring that the telephones are properly used.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6284 - Other - Again Mr Minister, \$45,100,000 is fairly significant, could the Honourable Minister indicate what this Other is for? This is Account Code 6284, because we have another other coming.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, this has to do with rental of trunk calls as well as internet fees.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I did not get the first one, Sir - trunk calls

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I am a bit young to grasp that bit about trunk calls. Account Code 6294 - Other - Again Other and this now is under other operating expenses, could the Honourable Minister say what the \$19,100,000 represents?

Hon Clement J Rohee: This has to do with the collection and storage of corpses.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6202 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Is the Minister satisfied that

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\$20,000,000 is sufficient given the fact that many people accept the Guyana Police Force needs to be exposed to a significant increase in training?

Hon Clement J Rohee: We support that position, yes, but if there are not sufficient funds, we will approach Cabinet for additional funds and we usually get it.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Minister, could you indicate whether that \$20,000,000 represents the figure that you asked for? I know that there is bread and butter versus guns, but is that the figure that you initially asked for and you felt comfortable would transition our police force?

Hon Clement J Rohee: But that is loaded question, Mr Chairman. I suppose if I said no this is what I asked for then you will say that the police are not getting enough money for training, but the usual thing is that you ask for whatever you want and there are cuts that are made across the board in almost every sector.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, I think the Minister is being unnecessarily cautious, because we would applaud him if he had asked for more and out of the exigencies of service this is all he got, because it would show that he is pushing his Ministry, but because he is so suspicious, I do not know why.

So could we go on?

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On the same head, could the Minister indicate what portion if any of that \$20,000,000 is going towards scholarships?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I am not aware that any of this is going towards scholarships. If there are any scholarships to be offered then we deal with them as they come along especially if they are foreign funded.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - \$4,474,373,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 214 and 215

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 513 - Guyana Prison Service

Question is proposed that that sum of \$808,144,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - stands part of the Estimates.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, COA 6116 - Contracted Employees and the Staffing Details show that the Ministry is moving from five contracted employees to eight an increase of eighty percent, could the Honourable

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Minister indicate what positions will these eight contracted employees hold or are presently holding?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Prison ... *[Laughter]* Mr Chairman that does not mean that I want to take you to prison. Mr Chairman, my apologies for that, it is a slip of the tongue.

There are basically eleven contracted positions: They are:

- Officer for Training Welfare and Corrections;
- Internal Auditor;
- Construction;
- Plant Maintenance;
- Training;
- Another contracted officer; responsible for construction;
- Another contracted officer dealing with custodian matters; and
- Three Welfare Officers

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you. Honourable Minister, are you saying then that the Staffing Details here is inaccurate, because the Staffing Details have eight, but you have just informed this House that it is eleven. Is it a typo?

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Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, it could very well be that.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: You see, the Minister is being agreeable.

Account Code 6283 - Cleaning and Extermination Services - obviously on the same medication that Dr Ramsammy is on, Sir - \$2,730,000 - Honourable Minister, is this for external extermination services only? In other words, Rentokil and so on not within the Ministry; in house, I do not want to say out house or else I would be ruled out of order.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, the Honourable Member is quite in order. These are external services procured by the Guyana Prison Service.

Continued in part II of III ... (pg 161)

National Assembly Debates

48th Sitting

14:00h

Friday 7 March 2008

Part III of III

Continued from Pt II of III

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6292 - Dietary - Honourable Minister, given that in your budget speech, you spoke about the prison moving more towards self-sufficiency in food, we see an increase of about \$28,000,000, my question:

- (i) is this an indication that you anticipate more over-crowding of our prisons and that is why we have increase; or
- (ii) is it that you are improving the quality and there would not be so much callaloo and so on; or
- (iii) is it that the agriculture drive has not fully taken off?

So those are the three questions.

Hon Clement J Rohee: It is a combination of issues involved here; the dietary involves providing a better quality meal for the prisoners. Also sick prisoners have to be given specialised dietary meals and there is also the question of ensuring that the agriculture programme

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comes on stream. It is not fully on stream as yet although there are elements which have already begun to bear fruit.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much. Could the Honourable Minister ... if he is in a position, it would be helpful ... give us an idea of what is the cost to the State to feed a prisoner per day - just an average?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I think I said in my budget presentation \$253.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: This is per day or per meal, Minister, just to be clear ... they must have more than one meal per day. I am asking if the \$253 is per meal or per day.

Hon Clement J Rohee: This is a good meal warm, well cooked per day.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Well, Sir, we have the answer. Account Code 6302 - Training (including scholarships) - Sir, could the Honourable Minister say what portion if any of that training figure goes towards scholarships? This is for the Guyana Prison Service

Hon Clement J Rohee: Well it is the same principle applies here, Mr Chairman, with respect to scholarships for the Police Force and the Guyana Prison Service as part of the joint services. I remember the last time Mr Murray had asked if we give scholarships to prisoners, but that ended in 1992. *[Laughter]*

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could I ask the Honourable Minister if presently we have any member of the Prison Service on scholarship firstly either in or secondly out of Guyana?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, we have some prisoner officers at the University of Guyana on partial scholarships. So far we do not have any overseas at this point in time.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman through you to the Minister, in the light of the changing nature of crime and criminality, do you see the need to train people overseas to deal with the specificities of the Guyana situation.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, well I think the answer to that is quite naturally so. We have asked the Guyana Prison Service to develop a training programme in the same way as other joint services have and that is the intention.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: I would like to ask the Honourable Minister under Account Code 6294 - Other - there is \$13,000,000 - under the general heading of operating cost, the same one that have the dietary - what is the \$13,000,000 there for; what is the other consistent?

Hon Clement J Rohee: This has to do with purchasing feed for the animals which constitute part of the stock of the Guyana Prison Service agricultural programme.

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Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: One other question: Account Code 6293 - Refreshment and Meals - since the dietary concerns of feeding of prisoners, who partake of the refreshment and meals?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, from time to time, the Director of Prisons will have to bring Officers from the various prison locations for consultations, meetings and so forth and obviously he would have to provide them with a snack or a meal.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - \$808,144,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 216 and 217

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 514 - Police Complaints Authority

Question is proposed that that sum of \$16,908,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Just one question under this head for me - Account Code 6294 - Other - Again other keeps just standing out and when you look at the other items dietary, refreshment and meals, national and other events; my question is what does is this figure of \$50,000 for Other represents?

Hon Clement J Rohee: On prisons?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: No, we have moved; time has passed on Minister Rohee. We are at Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority - just one question.

Hon Clement J Rohee: As you would know from the newspapers and the Ads, the Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority would go out from time to time to visit to various locations and this is the money that takes care of him while he is travelling - accommodation, et cetera.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Honourable Minister, under Staffing Details we see a figure her of two, what is the authorised strength of this Authority?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Five in number.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: You said five is the total.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Well, I was asked what it the total; I was not asked what is the authorised strength.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: I can come to that; I am never shy to ask questions. Could the Honourable Minister indicate the authorised strength of this Authority?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Five.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Minister, in view of what you have said in your budget presentation about the Police Complaints Authority being strengthened to play a prominent role in the complaints level against the police, are you satisfied that even if you were to fill the three vacancies and move up to staffing of five, will that be sufficient to position the Police Complaints Authority to play the role that you clearly and quite correctly see them as playing?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, there is always room for improvement. I suppose that if the Police Complaints Authority becomes much more active, obviously we will have to look at it to see how best we can improve the situation.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority - \$16,908,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 218 and 219

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AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 515 - Guyana Fire Service

Question is proposed that that sum of \$397,460,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled - under Staffing Details we see 404 people there; Honourable Minister, am I correct in assuming that that figure of 404 represent our firemen and women that are presently in the employ of the Guyana Fire Service?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The authorised strength of the Guyana Fire Service in 427 and the actual strength is 419.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you. Minister, does that figure that we have there include the firemen who will soon be going to Bartica when the new fire station is opened; will then have to seek to expand your recruitment to accommodate this new fire station.

Hon Clement J Rohee: We are seeking to introduce a new model of fire fighting at Bartica and Onverwagt fire stations. We will be establishing for the first time in accordance with the Fire Service Act the Auxiliary Force of the Guyana Fire Service. They will be complemented by at least two or three professional members of the Fire Service.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you Minister. Somewhere in my reading I seem to have recalled that there was an auxiliary force many years ago, most probably before either of us was born. I think it is commendable that it has been restarted, but my impression is not that it has been now formed; it has been resuscitated. I agree with you after a significant period lapsed.

Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I am very happy to see that we have moved from about \$3,000,000 to \$8,500,000, which means of course nearly a two hundred percent. Would you agree with me that it is an indication that in the past we have perhaps not done what we should and we are now making amends as it were for that?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, the Guyana Fire Service has done a commendable job in formulating a training plan both local and international training and what we see here is a reflection of the decision of Government to send four Fire Service Officers overseas for training.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I think that is commendable and I will applaud the Minister on that initiative.
[Applause]

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Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - \$397,460,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 220 and 221

**AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 516 - General Registrar's Office**

Question is proposed that that sum of \$73,728,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 516 - General Registrar's Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I was not sure, Sir, if you had put the question. Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - We see that there has been an increase from one to two contracted employees. Could the Honourable Minister indicate what positions these two contracted employees hold?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Just basically one, the Registrar General. There is a mistake here.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Oh, it is not two, it is one.

Secondly, we see a figure of twenty-five for temporary employees, could the Minister explain what function or functions these temporary employees performed.

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Hon Clement J Rohee: This is a figure that reflects staff to help with transcriptions, et cetera, to speed-up the process or to assist the process of the current registration that is going on.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Is this information going to computers or they are moving it from hard copies to hard copies?

Hon Clement J Rohee: No, this is manual work being done from hard copy to hard copy. We have not moved to the stage to computerise the Office of the General Registrar. There is a project that is coming soon to address that matter.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 516 - General Registrar's Office - \$73,728,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 456 and 457

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that that sum of \$1,333,500,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: I am starting at the top, Account Code 1200600 - Buildings - Prisons - We see the description being construction and rehabilitation of buildings and the Profile Page 168 lists several things - Could the Honourable Minister indicate what portion of the \$40,000,000 budgeted for this year will go towards Item 2 which is the completion of the ablution area of the Georgetown Prisons; Item 3 renovation of family quarters; Items 4 and 5. So I am asking about the breakdown for Items 2, 3, 4 and 5. I think everybody has their books and they can follow.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, the breakdown for this \$40,000,000 is:

- The retention of the New Amsterdam Kitchen;
- Bachelors' quarters at Mazaruni;
- The Capital dormitory at the Georgetown prison; and
- A training facility for the Guyana Prison Service that is going to be located at Lusignan;
- Then there is the completion of the ablution area of the Georgetown Prison;
- Construction of the a perimeter fence at Mazaruni;
- Extension of the Administrative building in Georetown;

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- Construction of the control room at Timehri;
- Construction of watch towers (not the magazine) at Georgetown, Mazaruni and New Amsterdam;
- The purchase of cell locks for all the locations; and
- Construction of a catwalk at New Amsterdam.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much for that, Sir, I am always intrigued by purchase of cell locks, but the question I has asked is what is the figure for Items 2, 3, 4 and 5? In other words, what is the cost for Items 2, 3, 4, and 5 as printed on the Project Page?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The completion of the Mazaruni Fence is \$13,000,000; the renovation of the family quarters at the same Mazaruni is \$1,000,000; the extension of the Admin building in Georgetown is \$6,000,000 and the construction of a control room at Timehri is \$1,900,000.

Mr Basil Williams: On the same project code, Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say whether there is any improvement in the area of cell space or a prisoner accommodation in relation to this project code?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, this is going to be done at the Georgetown prison, where we are going to establish a new dormitory. We have already started.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: The Next Project Code 1200700 - Police Stations and Buildings - I think Mr Murray and other people who asked questions before me were making this general comment and it would really help and cut down on our time if we ... you see (2) says rehabilitation of police stations and give you about six or seven, but it does not give us a picture as to who will get the bulk of the money and so on. Therefore, my question unfortunately and it would keep repeating itself has to be under (2) which is rehabilitation of police stations, could the Honourable Minister provide us with the figures that have been allocated for the various police stations listed on Profile Page 169?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The police stations that are to be rehabilitated are:

- The police station at Mahaicony to a tune of \$4,000,000;
- La Grange - \$4,000,000;
- Mc Kenzie - \$4,000,000;
- Kurupung - \$6,000,000;
- Monkey Mountain - \$6,000,000;
- Imbamadai - \$7,000,000;
- Aishalton - \$8,000,000;
- Sherima - \$7,000,000;

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- The rehabilitation of the Inspector's living quarters at Bartica -\$7,000,000;
- The TSU barracks is to be rehabilitated at a cost of \$8,000,000;
- The current rehabilitation building in Georgetown - \$7,000,000; and
- The rehabilitation of the New Amsterdam Administrative Building - \$4,000,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: How much is earmarked for retention, Minister?

Hon Clement J Rohee: \$27,700,000

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Okay.

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, through you, Minister I would like to know if rehabilitation in this case means taking wood police stations and putting back wood or rehabilitation in this case is taking into consideration the change nature of crime is transforming wood into solid concrete that can protect our policemen. For instance, if you look at Brickdam where they live it is very vulnerable.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Some of them we are moving from wood to concrete, but in the Citizens Security Programme there is the plan to remodel about forty police stations along the lines of the justice drive taking into

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consideration things like domestic violence; looking at witnesses and so forth.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 1200800 - Fire Ambulances and Stations - and the description as at Profile Page 170, when we look there we see ... I am looking at No. 2. Construction of Fire Station Phase 2, could the Honourable Minister say whether this Phase 2, is it the final stage, will it see the completion of the Bartica Fire Station?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I do not think so, because last year we did Phase 1, which has to do with the preparation of the land and fencing. We are now moving to Phase 2, where we will start the construction of the building and then later on we will move to the other things that Mr Corbin spoke about, which is the fire tender that will come on stream.

The Chairman: Mr Franklin, you want to ask a question.

Mr Everall N Franklin: Yes, I was trying. Mr Chairman, just a quick clarification on the Project Code before 1200700 - Police Stations and Buildings - I am just questioning the station at Sherima, which is a key location in controlling travel in and out of the interior, if more attention in terms of increasing the capacity at that station was given any thought.

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Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, Mr Chairman, very much though was given to it.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I just want to ask another question with the Bartica Fire Station - Would the Minister not agree that it may have been more prudent to have invested in a fire engine before a building, because a fire engine could be housed at the REO's Office or outside, so if there is a fire, like we have had fires including a fatal fire in Bartica, because to build the building, which according to the Minister is not going to finish this year, so we are expending a significant amount on a project that may take three years and then at the end of it, then we have to find funds for the engine by which time we will have to repair the building.

Hon Clement J Rohee: We have had discussions with the Guyana Fire Service at a professional level on this issue and I am prepared to be guided by the Guyana Fire Service on how they prepare to move on it.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I move to the next Project Code 1200900 - Buildings - Home Affairs - the Legend says construction and rehabilitation of buildings - when we go Project Profile Page 171, we see at No. 2 - Construction and rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquent Centre at Sophia. My question, Sir, is what is projected to be the total cost of this Centre?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I think \$34,000,000 has been allocated for this purpose. This is in keeping with the Bill

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that was passed here not too long ago in the National Assembly to have juvenile centres established and we are doing the first one at Sophia.

Mr Basil Williams: Mr Chairman to the Minister, in fact the Profile says construction and rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquent Centres, in other words it speaks of more than one centre; we only see Sophia. The Minister has just said that there will be others, could the Minister indicate where and what other centres they propose to establish pursuant to the legislation that was passed?

Hon Clement J Rohee: I am not prepared at this time to say where the others are going to be. As we go along, as the funds become available and as we move through the different places, we will obviously identify those sites.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Williams

Mr Mervyn Williams: Project Code 2400400 - Land and Water Transport - Police - Could the Honourable Minister say if this provision here is specific to the acquisition of boats and engines for "D" Division both Sub-divisions 1 and 2?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, we catered for boats and engines under this amount

Mr Mervyn Williams: Is that specific to "D" Division Sub-divisions 1 and 2, Sir?

Hon Clement J Rohee: We do not really make those decisions at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Those

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decisions are made by the Commander of "D" Division. Mr Chairman, I am speaking about the allocation of the boats and engines.

Mr Mervyn Williams: Can I then ask the Honourable Minister, how many boats and engines are provided for under this Project Code for "D" Division Police?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, "D" Division will get one boat and engine.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, under that same area, could I ask how many boats? You see the figure is \$100,000,000, but it is for motor-vehicles, boats and outboard engines. So the portion of this \$100,000,000 will be used to towards boats and outboard engines and number?

Hon Clement J Rohee: The number is \$13,600,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: How many boats and engines?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Two boats and engines.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Two boats and two engines?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Well either of the boats, because when we speak of two boats and two outboard engines, we get a vision - at least I get the vision of the kind of boats that is envisaged; my question is: will either of these boats be capable of going out to sea to deal with the sea fields. *[Laughter]* No, if you are talking about a

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boat with an outboard engine, it means that it is a kind of boat that will have to stay either close to ...
[Interruption]

The Chairman: Outboard engines are not sea going vessels.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: That is the point, Sir. But I want to know if there are special types that will take us into the sea.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, I am sure that there are other people listening on to this discussion, so for us to say how far these boats will go out, are you sure you want me to say that? *[Laughter]*

Mr Aubrey C Norton: Mr Chairman, through you, I want to turn to Project Code 2600100 - Equipment - Police - the Legend says purchase of equipment, arms and ammunition and it says in the Project Profile is says, the project includes the purchase of arms - I could understand that; ammunition - I could understand that; traffic - I could understand that; could you explain narcotics?
[Laughter] I hope it is a typographical error.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, I do not understand what the Honourable Member is seeking. Could I get a clarification?

Mr Aubrey C Norton: I assume here, it says purchase these things which include the purchase of arms - I said, I understand that; ammunition, traffic, narcotics; which

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means you are trying to purchase narcotics; I am trying to get ... I do not understand it.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman ... [*Noisy Interruption*] ... Honourable Member Mr Murray, if I may, there is one word that is left out there; it is narcotic equipment.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Corbin

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, at the risk of hopefully not compromising the Minister's security arrangement, the details of which are not really interesting, but Project Code 2600800 - Office Equipment and Furniture - Home Affairs - And I look at the Project Profile 186 and I notice that the project will enable operational efficiency. I want to ask the Minister whether this will enable the Ministry of Home Affairs - in what way it will improve your efficiency? [*Pause*]

Mr Chairman, maybe while the Minister is consulting on how he is going to help me to understand on how well he will be doing, I want to also draw his attention to two lines on Project Code 2600900 - Police Complaints Authority - that is again covered under Project Profile No. 187, I looked at it and I saw a beautiful heading - Improving operation and efficiency and I looked at the items and I wondered:

- Filing Cabinets;

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- Metal Desk;
- Monitor;
- Printer;
- Chairs,
- Fans; and
- Computer

My concern here is whether this expenditure is going to enable the Police Complaints Authority to act with more efficiency with the many complaints they have been raised by the public.

Hon Clement J Rohee: This is a matter that could always be debated. [*Interruption: 'You have not answered the question.'*] I am giving you the answer, Honourable Member, but this is a matter that could always be debated whether it would or whether it would not, but we have to use what we have to maximise the efforts of the Police Complaints Authority to execute its mandate.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 1208500 - Citizen Security - \$660,000,000 - quite a princely sum and the Project Profile on Page 172 lists three things and my questions initially relates to the third one - Strengthening Social Cohesion within Communities. My question first of all is what portion of

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the \$660,000,000 has earmarked for strengthening social cohesion within communities?

While the Minister is finding this figure, my further question is: at this stage what would the Minister consider the flag-ship project that will launch this strengthening social cohesion within communities? Has that project been identified and what form it would take.

Hon Clement J Rohee: I cannot say at this point in time precisely what would be the specific sum of money that would be allocated to the question of social cohesion although it is quite a substantial sum. However, the flag-ship project that will indicate the success of that particular component of the Citizen Security Programme will be the Community Action Groups and the Constitution of those community action groups in the various communities apart from Annandale, Buxton and Rose Hall.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A follow-up to my previous question; apart from the answer that it is a debatable issue, I wonder whether the Minister would agree with me that operation efficiency, while it may hinge upon Cabinet's desks and computers, it will have more to do with the quality of staff and the attitude of staff in the agencies to which they are assigned.

Hon Clement J Rohee: The office equipment and furniture question that was asked earlier has to do with the purchase of a number of computers, multi-media projectors, desks, chairs, et cetera, as well as security

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cameras. Now, how will this improve the efficiency of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Honourable Member, I am sure that you will appreciate that once the staff is working under good conditions which are comfortable, that the efficiency would improve significantly.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: I do not want to enter into a debate. I did not ask for the cameras, because that is obvious; I was asking for the other one. The camera is the earlier heading on the Project Profile, but I want to move on now to Project Code 2604200 - Community Policing - where there is \$65,000,000. Under the Project Profile 188 which is still very vague and I understand the need for security matters not to be obtained in depth, but the description is; entails the provision for community policing. This is to increase protection and security to communities. What conceptually this programme is all about without compromising security details; this \$65,000,000, how is that operation going to help in this area?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Every year we were to have an allocation of \$15,000,000 for the Community Policing Groups. This year we have decided to increase that \$15,000,000 to \$65,000,000 by an additional \$50,000,000. This \$50,000,000 will go exclusively to "C" Division to help improve the work of the Community Policing Groups, some of which have been recently and newly established; some of which have been consolidated and expanded that have been there before. The whole

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idea is to ensure that they have mobility whether vehicles motor cycles, bicycles to facilitate patrols and for them to have other equipment so that when they are sworn in as rural constables, they are able to execute certain functions such as arrest and so forth. The \$15,000,000 will be used as usual to purchase boats and other equipment for other policing groups outside of 'C' Division.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, it is marked so deeply on the number, I cannot really see it. It is the one immediately under General Registrar's Office which is 1700200 entitled Land and Water Transport - Police ... I am sorry, Police Project Code 2400500 - Land Transport - Home Affairs - Project Profile 175. The Profile page says purchase of a vehicle and my question is what type of vehicle is this \$6,150,000 buying?

Hon Clement J Rohee: This is a vehicle for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Minister or Ministry?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Ministry.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 2501200 - Equipment and Furniture - Police - Profile Page 178 - When we look at the description of the project we see the project includes the purchase of:

- Computers and I am very happy about that;
- Printers;

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- Photo copier;
- Writing desk;
- Filing cabinet;
- Computer desk;
- Fans;
- Beds;
- Chairs;
- Fax machines; and
- Typewriters

My question: is this a typographical error, if not, why would the Guyana Police Force be buying typewriters in the 21st Century? [*Noisy Interruption*]

Hon Clement J Rohee: I think if I may be allowed to answer the question, there are certain interior locations that require typewriters. So it is relevant in that respect. That is why I am for locals as well as others.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, with cricket in the air, I would give him a six for that and as you see we are already applauding, but indeed Sir, we do have the capacity where through solar energy, we can propel and work computers in the interior - Solar panels are with us.

Project Code 2600300 - Tools and equipment - Fire - Profile Page 181 - Sir, I am interested in the purchase

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arson field kits, because I remember seeing as I prepared for my budget the fact that that is one of the area that the Fires Service is a bit behind in finding out causes of fire and so forth. I am glad to see it here, but my question is to find out what portion of the \$23,000,000 is going towards the purchase of arson field kits and if that would be sufficient to give them the capacity that they need to solve these crimes when they occur?

Hon Clement J Rohee: \$400,000 is going towards the procurement of arson and field testing kits. The bulk of the money is actually going to the fire fighting suites which are very costly.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir as we come to the close I see people looking at their clocks ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: We started fifteen minutes late, Honourable Member.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you so much, Sir, well I can slow down now and perhaps go back to some questions that I have. *[Laughter]*

Project Code 2600400 - Other Equipment - Prisons - Profile Page 182 - When we look at there, we see a set of things; shields and helmets and Security lights, I am particularly asking for those two heads, could the Honourable Minister indicate what portion of the \$10,000,000 is going towards that?

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, it is \$1,900,000.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: For which one, I asked about shields and helmets and also security lights - two items.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Chairman, we actually did not disaggregate the items, but under the purchase of firearms and ammunitions, it will come under that.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Would the Minister agree that it would be helpful in the future that these things are disaggregated in the future so that we can really have a true picture when we ask and we could move much quicker under this question period.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Yes, I agree.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$1,333,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Honourable Members, thank you very much. That concludes our business for today.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Can you move the adjournment, Honourable Member?

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Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Speaker, I wish to move that the House stands adjourn to Monday, 10 March at 14:00 H

The Speaker: The House is so adjourned.

Thank you very much; have a good weekend.

Adjourned Accordingly At 20:07H