

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE CONVENTION CENTER OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL LILIENDAAL Part I

6TH SITTING

1.00 PM

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2003

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S. C., M. P. - *Speaker of the National Assembly*

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

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

- *Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications*

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P.

- *Minister of Parliamentary Affairs*

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.

- *Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation*

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

- *Minister of Local Government and Regional Development*

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P.

- *Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport*

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P.

- *Minister of Education*

The Hon. Suisnarine Kowlessar, M.P.

- *Minister of Finance*

The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P.

- *Minister of Housing and Water*

The Hon. Navindranath O. Chandrapol, M.P.

- *Minister of Agriculture;*

Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P.

- *Minister of Home Affairs;*

Region No. 3-Essequibo Islands/

West Demerara

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnath D.A. Bisnath, M.P.

- *Minister of Labour, Human*

Services and Social Security (AOL)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P.

- *Minister in the Ministry of Local*

Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadew Sawh, M.P.

- *Minister of Fisheries, Other*

Crops and Livestock

(Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice)

- *The Hon. S. Radolph Insanuly, O.R., C.C.H., M.P. - Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs
- *The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P. - Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P. - Minister of the Public Service
- The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P. - Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. - Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands West Demerara)
- **The Hon. Manizoor Nadir, M.P. - Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
- The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P. - Minister of Amerindian Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. - Minister of Health
- Mr S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P. - Chief Whip
- Mr Cyril C. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Maharaja)
- Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. - (Region No. 7 - Cayman/Mazaruni)
- Mr Husman Alli, M.P.
- Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
- Mrs Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
- Mr Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Maharaja) (Absent)
- Mrs Shirley V. Edwards, J.P. M.P. - (Absent)
- Mr Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr Heeralall Mohan, M.P. - (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supensam)
- Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. - (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr Khenraj Ramjattan, M.P. - (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Dr Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.
- Mrs Philomena Sahoo-Shary, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. - Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water -
- Mrs Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - (Region No. 1 - Bartica/Waini)
- Mr Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

* Non-Elected Minister

** Elected Member from The United Force

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

Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.	- (Absent)
Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.	- Deputy Speaker of the N.A. (Absent)
Mr E. Lance Carberry, M.P.	- Chief Whip (Absent)
Mr Ivor Allen, M.P.	- (Region No 2-Pomeroon/Siparuni) (Absent)
Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr Vincent L. Alexander, M.P.	- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
Mrs. Velda A. Lawrence, M.P.	- (Absent)
Dr Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.	- (Absent)
Miss Antra Ally, M.P.	- (Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)
Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P.	- (Region No.10-Upper Demerara Berbice) (Absent)
Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.	- (Absent)
Dr George A. Norton, M.P.	- (Absent)
Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, M.P.	- (Region No 4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P.	- (Region No.3-Essequibo Islands West Demerara) (Absent)
Dr Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.	- (Absent)
Miss Lutene A. Nette, M.P.	- (Region No 4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P.	- (Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
Mr Ricky Khan, M.P.	- (Region No.1-Barima/Waini) (Absent)
Mrs. R. Bancroft, M.P.	- (Region No.8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P.	- (Region No.6-East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)
Miss Judith David, M.P.	- (Region No.7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P.	- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
(One Vacancy)	

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

Mrs Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.	
Mrs Shirley J. McIvillie, M.P.	- (Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr Ravindra Dey, M.P.	- (AOL)
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OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Wednesday 9 April 2003

PRAYERS

The Clerk reads the Prayer

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS ET CETERA

By The Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection)

Minutes of the Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee of Selection of the Second Session held on 4 April 2003

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and first Reading

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Demerara Harbour Bridge Corporation Bill, 2003 - Bill No. 2/2003

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2003 (2003 BUDGET)

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2003.

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Education.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Speaker, I stand in support of Budget 2003. However, before proceeding any further, I must welcome back Honourable Member Mrs Holder and say to her that, optimist though I am, I was almost driven to total despair, disenchantment and disillusionment by her presentation, both in content and in style. Her efforts were intended - and with me it had some success - to raise visions of Arma-

geddon. Even the little gesture of raising the tax threshold, coming from one of the kindest of our colleagues, the Hon Minister of Finance, was coupled to the new tax on telephone calls to demonstrate extreme scrooge-like intentions. But the Hon Minister is also a friend, and it is our duty to prevent him from falling into that abyss of gloom so ably dubbed by the Honourable Member.

Mr Speaker, by increasing the tax threshold in these very hard budgetary times, my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance, was able to make a clear statement of the Government's intention to stay within the PPP/C's historical mandate to further the interest of the poor and dispossessed. One may argue about whether the increase is sufficient, and what can be done to make it larger, but the fact that, in these times, he has shifted it at all is an indication that he and the Government feel that more should be done for poor working people.

Mr Speaker, since 1992 our per capita income has doubled to about \$850. The real income of those at work has increased significantly. In the teaching profession, for example, average increases over the period had been 550 percent. The minimum wage in the teaching profession rose from \$3,100 in 1992 to \$20,103 today. Listen to this, a headmaster who was receiving \$12,000 in 1992, gets \$94,000 today. *[Applause]* Over the period the cost of living, if measured by the cumulative inflation rate, has risen to just about under 100 percent. There has been significant improvement in the standard of living of those working in teaching and the public service. But, Mr Speaker, while this is true, Guyana remains one of the poorest countries in the Region. Eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$850) pales in significance beside Trinidad and Tobago's about \$5,000 or Barbados's \$8,000 to \$10,000. Eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$850) simply cannot give our people the things they need, much less the things they desire. The Honourable Minister has stated that the economy grew by 1.1 percent in 2002, and is expected to grow by 1.2 percent this year. When we consider all the events of 2002, it may well be considered something of a miracle that the economy grew at all. However, it does not take much to recognize, not much insight to see, that with these levels of growth we can expect to

remain poor for a very long time. Therefore, the question that must be uppermost in all our minds is: What needs to be done to drive us toward a better economic performance, and as a result, a better standard of living?

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Finance argued, and since then many of us have echoed him, that political stability is a prerequisite for economic development, and he properly locates our current economic difficulties in the political conflicts that pervade our society. But even more ominously he wrote, and I quote:

Indeed the success of the implementation of the 2003 Agenda is predicated on returning the country to stability, and providing a favourable environment for growth.

So, not only is the growth the Budget projected too small, but even this is predicated on our coming to grip with our political reality. Therefore, the major task for all of us, the priority for all of us, is to make every effort to do what we can to bring political stability to Guyana.

Mr Speaker, those who believe that they can have an improved standard of living in any other manner are blowing in the wind.

Sure, everyone should pay their taxes, and, there are far too many tax dodgers. Sure, every effort should be made to make people feel that what we have is equitably distributed. Sure, what we have should be more effectively and efficiently utilized, but, Mr Speaker, at the end of the day we are all still talking about a more equitable and effective distribution of poverty. The PPP/C has done much, but it falls far short of what Guyana offers, what we can do and what the people desire.

Turning to education, Mr Speaker, only those who do not wish to see can deny that much work has been done and progress made in education delivery and outcomes over the past 12 years. Although there is still much to do in the provision of physical infrastructure, so many schools have been built and repaired that our detractors have now resorted to contradictory responses, à la Mrs Holder. Some say that too

many resources have gone into building and others say the Government is not doing sufficient to rebuild and repair schools. Further, it is just not true to say that we have not been expending sizeable resources in areas other than physical infrastructure.

In 2002, over 500 teachers graduated from the Cyril Potter College of Education. Many seminars and upgrading workshops were held throughout the country, old curricula were reformed and new ones introduced and every one of our international programmes had important quality elements. This work, of course, has brought improvements and results. For example, CXC results have gradually improved with Grades I to III passes increased from 47.5 percent in 1992 to 57.3 percent in 1997 when the system was reformed to make Grade IV a pass. Since then passes have increased from 68 percent to 71.1 percent in 2002. However, two points need to be made here.

Firstly, like most things, to a large extent education outcomes depend upon resource ability. Although Guyana spends just over 8 percent of GDP on Education and, I dare say, that is perhaps, or indeed I can say with some certainty, the largest contribution in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Given the size of our GDP, spending per child is still comparatively small.

Secondly, it matters not how much was achieved, there is still a considerable task to do.

Mr Speaker, too many of our pupils drop out of our schools too early and remain ill-prepared to face modern challenges. There are too many unqualified and untrained teachers in our classrooms, and here I agree with Honourable Member Melville, particularly in the Hinterland. Indeed the loss of trained teachers remains a regional challenge. Further, we still have to come to grips with our testing and assessment systems. At almost every level our curricula are still not properly aligned to modern requirements, and though vastly improved, much work still needs to be done to the physical infrastructure.

Mr Speaker, we believe that in our times education policy must secure equitable access to quality education for all. This requires that we pay special attention to those who are traditionally excluded and suffer discrimination. Education policy must also be geared towards preparing our people for lifelong learning. Among other things, life-long learning involves providing varied offerings and opportunities to learn. It also means building bridges between such offerings that will help individuals to develop specific individual projects in pursuit of their own individual and professional goals. The achievement of widespread literacy is central to this aim. That is why the 2003 to 2007 Strategic Plan our Ministry has just completed has as one of its missions the modernization of education to eliminate illiteracy.

Mr Speaker, given the racially diffracted nature of our society, our culture, our political discourse and action, a central task of our education system must be to teach us to creatively and beneficially use our diversity. As access, of course, becomes more universal, our school population will become more diverse. If our education system merely follows the normal course of offering homogeneous solution to dissimilar realities, many students will feel that school does not respond to their specific needs and will turn away from school feeling marginalized and excluded. And that is why I agree with the Honourable Member Mrs Melville, that we need to take on board indigenous languages, to localize the education process, although I am not certain I will go as far as to say that we should make English a second language in those areas.

Education can help to heal our social problems if it respects and values our diversity as a means of enriching the learning process. For lifelong learning, we must foster systems that are open, flexible and responsive to the needs of varying communities. What this means is that schools must not be closed institutions, they must be connected not only to their own communities, but also to the wider world by building participatory and democratic networks.

Mr Speaker, the third of the three missions of the strategic plan is to develop this kind of unity in diversity. The plan was developed after

months of participatory activities in every Region of Guyana. The strategies contained in the plan are grouped under six major areas of concern.

1. Quality issues such as those providing for improvements in early childhood education, curricula and standards of inputs, processes and outcomes.
2. Equity issues dealing with achieving universal secondary education, improving the access and quality of education of the Regions and mainstreaming persons with special needs.
3. Issues dealing with our diversity and community participation.
4. Human resource development as it affects the teaching, managerial and community stakeholders.
5. Management issues which emphasize issues for decentralization and improving institutional capacities at every level.
6. And those issues which deal with our acquiring greater community, moral and financial support.

We have taken initiatives in many of these areas in 2002, but I will focus only upon a few.

A central feature of the plan that took root in 2002 and which will blossom in this and the coming year is our effort to decentralize the education system. This process requires, not only that we make real budgetary division of education between the centre and the Regions, but that we deepen local control by giving the schools back to their communities. Over the last year we sought to promote community participation in school government by requiring all schools to establish some kind of participatory mechanism. We now require that all fund-raising activities be the responsibility of such a mechanism. We have called on the School Board Secretariat, the Regional Education and other authorities to facilitate the training of such groups. This year we will legally expand the

establishment of school boards and provide them with the grants usually given to the individual schools. We have been attempting to convince our senior teachers to participate in a school management course we now deliver by Distance Education. The idea is to make this diploma a necessary qualification for those moving into senior positions in the school system. It is our conviction that, if we are to derive more value from the resources we expend, school management must be radically improved.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry has recently negotiated a basic education management and support arrangement with the Inter-American Development Bank, which is intended to seriously tackle the problem of illiteracy, and functional literacy. The programme, of course, is rooted in our strategic plan which, in itself, is related to our National Development Strategy. BEAMS is a US\$55M Project with three important components.

1. School performance.
2. Organizational and human resources and
3. Infrastructure development.

This programme is expected to be completed in two phases. The school performance component, which will cost G\$2B, will lay the foundation for early mastery of literacy and numeracy skills. It is within this component that we have developed benchmark assessments for Levels Two, Four and Six, which will also be temporarily used as replacement for the SSEE. It is also with this component that we will introduce interactive radio for the teaching of Mathematics. By the end of the first Phase some 4,000 teachers, 100,000 children, and many community and other participants will be benefiting from this school improvement component.

Mr Speaker, effective teaching and teachers are essential to effective education delivery. The Ministry has traditionally recognized the need to consistently upgrade teaching skills. However, if our intention is to develop and further decentralize a flexible education system that rec-

ognizes and facilitates the development of diversity in community and personal needs, teachers will need to become more autonomous agents. The traditional role of teachers who are essentially executors who transmit knowledge, emphasizes the memorization of content and have little or no say in curricula design and development. This will have to change. Our attempt to involve as many persons as possible in the development of a strategic plan, to increase local autonomy at the level of the school, and to involve the Teachers Union in most of our important discourses, indicates our willingness to work towards making teachers change-agents. Yet, it would be foolhardy not to recognize that there are conflicting visions of the role and place of teachers that mitigate against any attempt to instill in them a new enthusiasm to confront the challenges of education within the social, political and economic context. The constraining factors include our own poor condition, the widespread demand for teachers and the belief - wrongly as it may be in some quarters - that teachers are relatively badly-off when compared to other public servants. What is necessary is for us to collectively develop a realistic view of our condition and devise policies that can gradually improve them. The traditional road to industrial relations, which attempts to use location and propaganda to force change, simply will not work. Except for the salaries for those at the lowest level, an anomaly caused by the Armstrong Award, which the Government has been addressing, teachers are not comparatively badly off when compared with other public employees. In 1994, teachers received 100 percent increase in salaries so that even with the large Armstrong Award their position remains competitive. A trained teacher with only two years post CXC training earns \$38,400 per month, an untrained teacher (untrained in teaching) who is a graduate earns \$53,325 per month while a trained graduate earns \$59,325 a month. On the other hand a graduate entering the public service only earns about \$35,000 per month. Our Ministry should propose to the Union that we should work over some specific timeframe to bring the salaries of teachers within 80 percent of comparative positions in the Private Sector. We believe that this is fair.

Mr Speaker, to be successful in modern times, every country must

develop and sustain a cadre of skilled engineers and technical personnel. This effort takes place at various levels in the education system and has now developed into a new initiative in the Ministry of Education. This initiative will eventually provide all secondary school students with the opportunity to pursue a technically-orientated programme. The Basic Competency Certificate programme will allow access to employment and serve as an entry requirement for apprenticeship training, and to the CXC and post secondary institutions. The course replaces the Secondary School Proficiency Examination that has lost credibility and was abandoned in 2001. It has a duration of one year and will be taken at Grade Ten. It was developed after months of study by those in the technical and vocational sector. Greater public participation in its further development is ongoing. More specifically, the programme aims to provide,

- (a) an opportunity for secondary school students to develop technical competencies and functional literacy and numeracy by Grade Ten,
- (b) equip students with life citizenship and vocational skills to support national development.

The Speaker: Time, Honourable Member.

Hon Mr Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, I move that the Honourable Member be given ten minutes to conclude his speech.

Put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Thank you. You may proceed.

Hon Dr Henry Jeffrey: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

- (c) expose students to a modularized education path that emphasizes supervised work experience,
- (d) develop a potential in good occupational and environmental health and safety and

- (c) instill problem solving and creative thinking skills through project work.

Mr Speaker, our efforts to improve the education system are participatory and on-going. As I said earlier, the major challenge facing our country is that of political stability, and the immediate task is to find modalities to solve this problem. But, if our country is to utilize its rich diversity to dramatically improve our life opportunities, we will need, not simply to improve the delivery of education, but also to build a citizen who can creatively transform that education, that knowledge; to build a citizen who is autonomous, pro-active, imaginative and innovative; to build a citizen who has a keen understanding, appreciation and respect for other people and their culture. Mr Speaker, such an educational agenda is clearly not the only responsibility of the formal education system.

I thank you. [Applause]

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Member.

Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport.

Hon Miss Gail Teixeira: Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Budget of 2003, and to point out that the theme chosen by my colleague Minister, *Confronting the Challenges: Staying on Course for a Prosperous Guyana*, is an extremely appropriate theme, particularly at this time in 2003 when we look at the developments at the global, regional and national levels. It is important for us, I believe, in this House to recognize that one of the major issues confronting the world today is the issue of governance. And while we think we may be the creators of this term, in fact, the global politics of today has to do with governance issues. Is it unilateralism or multilateralism? Is it a world in which will be determined who will be governing whom, for whom, by whom and at what levels? Because when we look at global politics today, and the whole thrust of globalization and its impact on poor and developing countries - both negative and positive - we also see emerging a new dynamics at the global level, with multilateral agencies such as the World Trade Organi-

zation and developing countries, where they are questioning who makes the decisions on behalf of poor and developing countries.

We are also seeing it in the United Nations and we will pay the consequences of the developments that will arise out of the war in Iraq for many years to come! And certainly, as Mrs Holder pointed out, and the words that both herself and Mr Ravindra Dev used - *the paradigm shifts* - there are major paradigm shifts in the world, and Guyana is not left out of these major issues and challenges confronting all of us. And what do we mean by governance? The budget that is presented to us, in my opinion, is a reflection of the upholding of our Constitution on inclusivity and shared governance in a very dynamic way. I believe that this House is going through amazing changes. It is unfortunate that those on the other side do not acknowledge this, except, I think and recognize the involvement of GAP/WPA, and Mr Ravindra Dev who was here yesterday. This is an exciting time for politics and for the issues of governance, because this is the entity that will deal with the evolution of the modern Guyanese state, a democratic state. And for those who may not understand what we are talking about when we say a State, we are talking about the executive arm made up of the Cabinet, the legislative arm such as here, the judiciary, such as law and order, and the economic arms. These entities all come together and create what is a State. And if we look back at our experience as a Nation and we leave out the pre-1966 (before independence) struggles in Guyana to create a Constitution prior to 1966 and post 1966, what we had was, in fact, a Constitution which imbedded and allowed a State and Government to run roughshod over people for 28 years - the paramountcy of the party that we existed under was actually embedded. And therefore the attempts at creating Constitution(s) had been fraught (in this country) with many contradictions. But actually it was not until 1995/1996, when a whole new period of consultation for constitution reform began, that we saw a major change from 1966 to 1995/1996. Because we had, in 1970, the Republic being formed, and, whilst we celebrate the anniversary, ask nine out of ten Guyanese what Republic status means. How many of them really understand what republic status means? The 1980 Constitution was passed after a referendum which was boycotted by all the

then Opposition and Democratic forces. Imperial powers which were given to the President were imposed upon the people. Those imperial powers were removed by this Government. This saw the evolution of a modern state in our context. And in any part of the world we have to look at how it is defined and for whom it should be defined. Also we need to look at some of the experiences of the other countries.

I have listened to Honourable Member Mrs Holder and heard some of the same cynicism and skepticism that have been brought to this House before. But, I think one of the problems with us as Guyanese is that we refuse to have a historical context. We want to pretend that before 1992 nothing happened - we have a political amnesia - we do not want to deal with what happened. And, therefore, we lose our context all the time. When we look at Commonwealth countries and their own evolution, their Parliaments, their democracies, in the same document that the Parliament here, and I thank the Speaker and the Clerk for sharing with us these wonderful magazines that come from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Australia and other places; because that is where you begin to get a sense of what are the changes taking place in the evolution of a modern state in the world. Australia has been struggling with it for 100 years and yet, when we look at the system of Committees in Australia, these started evolving in 1979/1980. Their system of committees is what we are now struggling to come to grips with. The United Kingdom has been struggling with democracy, (its evolution and establishment) over 300 years, and, in fact, the issue of citizens and what were their roles go back to 1066 A.D., so the British have had a long tradition of this. The United States has been struggling with their definition of democracy in a modern state for 300 years; Canada for over 100 years. In 1997 the British Parliament amended the Code of Conduct and Guidelines for Parliamentarians, moving from the older versions of the Code of Conduct established in the 1960s - guidelines of what were expected of Parliamentarians and what were expected of Ministers. The Committee System that has been set up in Britain has gone through major changes in the last 30 to 50 years. And, therefore, Guyana is part of that dynamic change that is taking place. And why are we taking part in

it? Because, in fact, it is only with the opening of democracy in this country, in 1992, with the first free and fair elections, that this country had the first opportunity, in 28 years, to be able to move forward and start charting a course, in terms of economic development, in the context of a modern State. This year will be our 37th year as an independent Nation.

The Constitution Reform Process that the PNC started in 1980 was designed to deal with the exigencies of the State under the PNC. And it was to create an executive administrative dictatorship with constitutional enshrinement. The Human Rights Directives were, in fact, not rights in the Constitution. We have not got the amendments passed in this House and we hope that the Religious leaders who have concerns about our human rights will re-think their positions on that critical part of our Constitution, the Human Rights Section, which is now enshrined in our Constitution that we can move forward to set up the Human Rights Commission and all the other Commissions which are now stymied by what are civil society's concerns. The process that was started in 1995/1996 for constitutional reform, created volumes of notes on discussions held throughout this country. There is no other country in CARICOM that has gone through this process of consultation and involvement of people in the community levels, in terms of what the Constitution means. Whether it was flying into Lethem or Kamarang, whether going to Linden, whether 10 or 100 people turned up, this is unprecedented in this part of the world. In fact, I dare say that many of the Constitutions that were designed in the UK, the original constitutions, had no such involvement. But the 1997 Elections imposed a new imperative on the country and on the Government and while it is important that we continue in the process of constitutional evolution, in theory and principle, constitutions are not instruments to sign development but are instruments to serve the state and citizens of a nation, to develop a Nation, and to allow for the process of changing it constantly as the needs change. We must put on record that, in the 28 years of the PNC rule, that this was not so, and that is one of the reasons why I stand here today to raise old matters. As I look at television, the media in this country, I get concerned as if the history of this country began in 1992. And whilst one must not dwell in the past,

the historians always say that - if you forget history you will be forced to repeat it - and repeat it in worse forms than the original way in which it expressed itself.

The inclusions in this Constitution and the amendments are progressive, and dare I say, quite radical, because there are many parts of the Commonwealth where such inclusions are not present, even today. The accommodation of the Opposition and civil society is unlike any other CARICOM country and even, as I said, in some of the Commonwealth democracies. Not only do we have the appointment of the service commissions taking place through the Constitution and through the Parliament, but also the appointment committees (the appointment of key stakeholders and public officials). They are the Auditor General, the Chancellor, the Commissioner of Police; all of which go through a process of consultation and, therefore, we have removed some of the discretionary powers of the President and of other Cabinet representatives. As I said, the Committee System that we are now playing with is relatively new, and if you look at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) Report on the resurgence of democracy, it points out that the role of the Parliamentary Committees is a relatively new thing in terms of the way in which it is taking place now - Sectoral Committees, Public Accounts Committees - in some countries they are new actually, in terms of Procurement Commission, which is the direction in which we are heading. And so one of the points made in the document shows that these are dynamic changes, and Guyana is in sync; Guyana is correctly on course in terms of these changes.

We have to recognize too, that Guyana has made quantum leaps in the last ten years. Since 1997 this country has been under stress at the political level, especially from the People's National Congress/Reform, which has imposed a timeframe and dictates the process of constitution making and the evolution of a modern political state in Guyana. There is a new leader of the PNC/R, who unfortunately, is not here in Parliament, but let us see if, in fact, the PNC/R is as new as its new leader. Because, what is required for this country, is to allow the process of consultation at all levels in the evolution of a modern Guyanese State, whether we are

looking at the economy; whether we are looking at the justice system; whether we are looking at Parliament; or whether we are looking at the executive, there is need for responsible behaviour by all concerned, and a desire that reaches above our own particularistic interests. And so, when you read the Code of Conduct of the British Parliament, there is a very interesting comment it makes that overriding one's own partisan views is a concern of a member of Parliament to put the country and the Nation first. I want to use some examples here because I think one of the issues we need to recognize, and of which there is much being said in the press, but on which there is not enough research, and I call on the media here and outside, to do better homework, to do better investigative journalism, especially when they are dealing with matters of politics and economics. I want to share the example of one of the Regions of Australia which faces a similar problem like us. One of the Legislative assemblies has only 57 members and, when they exclude 11 Ministers, the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition they are down to 44. And so, creatively, not to put the great burden on 44 members to manage all these committees in 2001, they changed their committee system to allow for a reduced number of parliamentary committees, and a greater definition of the numbers. This is what I am trying to refer to when I say that, when one is under political stress, one does not, as a country and its people, find all the creative and innovative answers to suit one's condition. It is unfortunate that the evolution of the modern state in Guyana is driven by political agendas, external to Parliament, which dictate its evolution in ways which may, 20 to 30 years from now, be criticized by politicians, political scientists and historians because we did not use this golden opportunity to be as innovative as we could have been. But, as I said, the imperative that is placed is not the best and the healthiest environment for the creation of the Parliament to suit the needs of a modern Guyanese state. The issue of governance therefore is critical. How do we govern and for whom do we govern? How do we balance the forces? How do we have checks and balances? How does one allow a government which is duly and democratically elected by the people to govern? How do we define the role of the Opposition? How does one allow for space for the civil society? This has all been gone

through by the constitutional reform process in Guyana. All of us should be proud of that and all of us must now contribute towards putting what you call flesh on the bones, because many of the areas are new and unknown, as when you press into your computer and you come up with a new website it tells you - unknown zone. We are, in some cases, in an unknown zone. How does the Budget relate to the issue of governance? The budget is a critical part of governance of any state, any government. It is not just about dollars and cents. A budget records the bill of health of our economy. And the bill of health of this economy, as reflected on Pages 4 and 5 of the Budget speech by Minister Kowlessar, points out that the economy of the majority of countries in Latin America contracted by more than 10 percent. It is only Guyana, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago that were spared the reflection of what happened to other countries such as Barbados and the Bahamas, who normally had better bills of health than ourselves. And certainly Dominica was in such crisis that CARICOM had to come up with a regional stabilization fund to rescue that sister nation. The ILO Report on Page 5 points out that the global slowdown has also led to worldwide unemployment reaching new heights, and that, in fact, in Latin America and the Caribbean which were hardest hit in the world, the record for joblessness rose by 10 percent. These are the real challenges of developing countries, and these are the concerns which we try to grapple with in our Budget - the availability of scarce resources and its effective and efficient utilization on behalf of the people - to try to improve the quality of life and the facilitation of a modern process in our economy and in our social system, to fit the challenges at the global, regional and national levels. The fact that Guyana, as pointed out by Minister Kowlessar, did well in comparison to others in the Region, is a reflection of governance and of tight fiscal management, under extreme pressures - not only at the international levels where a lot of world prices were dropping, but also at the political level, by political activities, crime and social instability. The fact that, despite all this, the majority of capital works in this Budget were completed, is also an example of good governance on the part of the PPP/C. The developments at the global level will place developing countries at an even greater disadvantage than normal. We are in an economic recession on

a global level, and the war in Iraq will not help. The fact that Dr Cheddi Jagan came up with the proposal of a New Global Human Order which was presented after his death at the United Nations General Assembly floor is an important innovation from a Statesman, a Visionary, from a poor, small country like Guyana, which tries for more equitable trade relations between the north and the south and developing countries. That challenge is greater today for developing countries than probably at any time before in modern history. The CARICOM proposal and attempts to create the CARICOM Single Market and Economy refer to attempts at regional integration in order to survive; because each of the small countries on their own over the next 5 to 10 years will face alarmingly amazing challenges - their economies are small and fragile, and so are ours, and so is the issue of regional integration and the issue of developing human resource skills that will be able to face the demands of globalization. In fact CARICOM studies have shown that in relation to the youth population in the CARICOM Region, between the ages of 15 and 29 over the next 5 to 10 years, this particular segment of population in the region will face tremendous dislocations based on the needs for new training, new types of skills being created, and new types of jobs being created. Therefore, if these projections are right, then the thrust of all countries, including Guyana, is to be able to try creatively, with limited resources and limited people, because my dear colleague next to me here, Dr Jeffery, talked about how many teachers we trained, but the brain drain has considerable negative impact on this resource. You have people who come down here and encourage people to leave this country (300 nurses leaving this country), so much so that in some of these same magazines you will find the issue of the brain drain in the Commonwealth. As a result of the migration of our limited skills, we need to look at some form of mechanism to be able to save ourselves from dire poverty and the lack of skills base to move forward and modernize our Nation. So this is not a problem peculiar to Guyana. It is a major challenge and problem affecting all developing countries, especially where in most developing countries government spends a large sum of money on training people, unlike in the North where if you want to be trained, you have to find your own money or you get a scholarship - there is no

free lunch in the North - either you find your way or you don't find your way at all.

And so we have to look at the other areas of challenges for our countries at the global level. One of the most dangerous challenges we face is the combination of poverty and crime and the penetration of our region and Guyana by the narco-industry. This is probably the greatest and most lethal threat to democracy in the anglophone Caribbean. It is the greatest challenge of our State to have any ability to have social stability. And, of course, as pointed out, without social stability one cannot have a rapid movement forward in terms of economic development. The increase in violence in the world... and of course even so today, we can turn on our televisions now and see a war going on from the coziness of our living rooms. We can look at the sanitization of war to such an extent that when a B52 bomb is dropped on a housing complex it is as if we are looking at Rambo, Sylvester Stallone, being able to manage the world and win (not our local Rambo, of course). Why then are we surprised that our children and our people see violence as an easy answer, as a ready answer? Violence and youth have become a global phenomenon taking up great concerns in the World Health Organization and in the different bodies of the United Nations, as to what is really going on in the world in terms of the combination of violence, and especially with young people. It is demanding creative and new forms of sociological research to try to really find, not what the variables are, but how the variables interact, and why in one country it is worse than another. Jamaica has been battling violence, gangs and youth for three decades now. And it has now spread - and I am not blaming the Jamaicans for this - to Trinidad and Tobago where kidnapping is a regular feature, Barbados, and now Guyana in the last year.

More countries have been forced to place scarce resources into reinforcing law and order to have more arms and equipment in order to protect themselves against the mafia, to protect their citizens against a well equipped, sophisticated system of violence in their societies. Obviously this will demand additional equipment and skills, not only in the area of law and order - the legislators, the judges, the magistrates, the

prosecutors - but they are also demanding new skills in the area of monitoring - monitoring customs, inland revenue and banks in order to seek out money laundering activities.

Guyana has continued to place emphasis on youth development in this Budget, despite what is going on politically and socially in this country, by continuing to invest funds into education, health, housing, water, transportation, roads, and so on. In fact, if we look at the investment in young people, persons under the age of 25, it is approximately \$20B of the Guyana Budget that is invested in the youth and the younger population in this country.

If we look at Health, Education, Housing and Water these are major inputs. I want to add to my colleague Minister Baksh... The housing programme that Guyana has cannot be found in any CARICOM country except here. *[Applause]* It is a major sacrifice in terms of fiscal arrangements. It is a major usage of funds to create housing, shelter for our people and to try to break down slums and ghettos where they have emerged. The regularization of the slum programme that was started with Dr Jeffery and Minister Indranie Chandarpal has continued under Mr Shaik Baksh, although many of the multilateral agencies which deal with us on money and loans and grants would sometime say... and it was championed and lobbied for a long time, and we won the battle because we are getting support now for our housing programme through loans; but for the first eight years this was not thought of by the international funding agencies as a correct investment. Therefore, Guyana's ability to lobby on behalf of the people and to improve the quality of life is as important as the dollars, because it takes a certain level of political leadership and guts and knowledge to be able to bargain with the IMF, IDB and World Bank to try and get some space in your budgetary arrangements to allow for these investments in human resources in which the payback is not immediate; the payback could be five or ten years time.

The fact is that 27 percent of the National Budget is in Health and Education, and the figures are here in the book if anybody wishes to look at them and do research. The Government of Guyana has made

choices, and that is what governments are expected to do, to make judgment calls, and to govern on behalf of the people. And some of the choices from time to time may not be popular.

Does one put money into buying brand new equipment for electricity, which will take billions of dollars out of your Budget and therefore cut back on your Health programme, your Education programme, your Water programme and your Housing programme? Do you cut back in those areas in order, or do you try to balance as much as you can and to be able to put funds in constantly, annually, into machinery to try to maintain them, and buy slowly and incrementally additional equipment. It is easy to say that the equipment needs to be replaced. It is hard to make the choice of where does that dollar come from.

And we have to admit, and this is not an excuse because economists recognize this, an economist of any worth, that when we look at what was not done by the PNC. In 1983 the PNC knew as a government that bauxite was going downhill, and that is why this current Ministry of Health went in to bail out McKenzie Hospital, the schools and so on in order to bolster the Town. Bauxite has been going downhill for 20 years.

1. Because of markets; and
2. because of many issues to do with investments and expansion.

But, this Government has put over US\$100M into bauxite over the last 8 to 10 years. There are those in our country who would ask if that money was appropriately used? Was that money correctly used? Couldn't it have gone somewhere else?

We also have to recognize the debt burden that we inherited, which has been reduced consistently, but nevertheless is an onerous one, even though it has been reduced.

To speak about places like Linden, which is a company town going through major changes which are very hard on people, we have to look

at other countries where this has taken place. But let us speak about full disclosure in relation to Linden and bauxite. Let us speak about disclosure by all, the Government of that day and the Opposition, about the acquisition of thousands of acres of land in Region 10 by PNC leaders, by Ministers of the day and in what way was that land used to help to provide the diversification of the economy and to be able to provide jobs for many Lindeners? It is time to have full disclosure in this country. It is time. But the full disclosure must be not only for now, but for the past.

We were confronted with a situation like the Truth Commission that South Africa did. And there is the debate still among many Commonwealth countries, whether Truth Commissions - the road that South Africa chose when it was dismantling apartheid - or the road we chose, which was not to deal with the past but to go forward - which was right and suited the context and which was the correct decision at the time?

The Speaker: Time, Honourable Member.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: I wish to move, Mr Speaker, that the Honourable Member be given 15 minutes to continue her speech.

Put and agreed to.

The Speaker: You may proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon Miss Gail Teixeira: Thank you, Mr Speaker and Honourable Member, Mr Reepu Daman Persaud.

On the issue of full disclosure, the example I will give is of Dr Cheddi Jagan: when he was President he set up a Special Task Force, around 1995, with the Trade Unions, with the Private Sector, and with professionals such as Dr Clive Thomas and others, to find money in the Budget to increase salaries, because people did not believe - there was a lack of confidence - that the Government was telling the truth, that there wasn't money to increase salaries more than what percentage could be given in the 1995 period. And so the books were opened, the irony

of it all is that there was not any large increase that could have been provided, because the books did not allow for an increase. The money that was available based on your revenue collection, your taxation system did not allow for that.

The modernization of our society requires, as I pointed out, a modernized State, a modernized economy and modern attitudes. Modern attitudes that not only deal with citizens' rights, but also citizens' responsibilities; that deal with law and order as a basic and fundamental requirement for social stability- yes, many attitudes have to be dealt with. As my colleague Dr Jeffery pointed out, it is not just the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to bring up children and to educate children. Families have responsibilities, communities have responsibilities and religious leaders have responsibilities. One of the major issues to do with modern attitudes is one in which we deal with education as a weaning process, weaning us from some of the bad habits.

When we deal with youth we go into many communities where young people say there are no jobs. There is a problem in unemployment. But, it is also true in certain communities that there are young, healthy, strong men who are wearing diamonds in their ears, big gold pendants with the eagles or whatever else and wristbands of gold and they say they have no work. When one says, why don't you pawn or sell this, buy some equipment, come to a training programme so you can learn a trade and be able to put yourself on the ground, they say, no, no, no, the Government is supposed to give me a job... So we have to change; we have to break the syndrome of dependency which has been part of the political control from 1968 to 1992 and to cultivate a more healthy attitude to development.

In Minister Kowlessar's document he also refers to opening a new market - Brazil. In fact, the call of Guyana is to go south, in search of new markets for trade and other engagements and this is what it will be because we need to open new vistas for our country.

Guyana, like so many small developing countries does not have the

same choices that, say, countries like China and the United States have. Yet, every day we look at television and our people are given a diet of American taste and culture and it develops into desires to acquire those too. The challenges of the Caribbean Region are extremely difficult, especially for the small islands, and our Region is becoming more and more volatile at the political, economic and social levels. There are projections that the trends and patterns abroad in the Region will lead to the type of eruptions that one saw in the 1930s in this Region. *Confronting the Challenges: Staying on Course*, is a serious proposition. There is no contribution in the press or in this House that has provided real alternatives to what the Government has reported on, and on what the Government has proposed as its framework. The Budget in itself cannot resolve the social variables; it can assist in reducing some of the concerns, but the resolution of the political climate is the determining factor, and this cannot be done by threats and violence, but by utilizing the forums that the democracy provides to ventilate these concerns and to seek redress where feasible. As my colleague on the other side, Mrs Sheila Holder said, *the Government has the responsibility and the greater burden to resolve the overwhelming issues that we confront*. But I say this, that the people voted at Elections in 2001; some voted for the Government and others voted for the Opposition Parties and they put the onus on the representatives in Parliament to represent their issues. It behooves us all, as Members of Parliament, to rationally represent these issues in the normal parameters that are provided by the Parliament. In fact, the demands of modern Parliament will place greater responsibility on those who seek political or public office. Again, when you look at these documents circulated to us from the Commonwealth, it is now recognized that one will have to have more training programmes for parliamentarians to deal with all the demands that parliament will put on the opposition and the government. In fact they are even looking at what will happen when we have virtual parliaments, so we do not actually have to come and see each other. We will do this by virtual reality. I hope I am not in parliament at that time. It is hard enough talking to empty benches so I really do not know if I would like to talk into a computer.

Therefore, the whole Theme of the Budget, *Staying on Course...* What is the course we want to stay on? It is the evolution of a modern Guyanese society. How do we do that? By fiscal management; by governance at the political, economic, constitutional and other levels. It is a major task and a quantum leap that Guyana has been making over the ten years in which we have been stymied by the machinations of the Opposition and sections of the Opposition, and those who willingly and knowingly misinform the Guyanese public on what is really at stake here. We will have tremendous challenges to resolve many of our problems. And if there is any Member of Parliament currently in or outside of the House, not here today, who has imaginative and creative ways in which, in the global context we are today, and the economic context we are in today, and who can rewrite the Budget of Mr Kowlessar, we will be interested to see it. Glib talk is not going to give us answers to providing water, housing, health, education and jobs for our people - we have to manage.

So in conclusion, Mr Speaker, the Government of Guyana will continue to steer this ship, this ship I call Guyana, on this course, despite the storms and the hurricanes that may buffet or batter it. The Government of Guyana, as headed by the PPP/C, will carry out its mandate to improve the quality of life for our people; to create a modern state economy and Nation in this Region. Budget 2003 is one more step in all the various stages in facilitating this evolutionary process.

I thank you. *[Applause]*

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Honourable Minister in the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security.

Hon Miss Bibi Shadick: If it pleases you, Mr Speaker, as I rise to support the Budget for 2003, I would like to recognize and applaud the positive outlook and bravery of the Honourable Finance Minister, the Director of Budget and their technical team for having the courage to

craft a budget for a poor country like Guyana in these very difficult times, Mr Speaker, in a country where criminal activity and violence against innocent civilians seems to be the order of the day in the context of the stated objective of the main opposition, to make the country ungovernable and in a global environment of economic uncertainty due to war, threats of war, and demonstrations against war, budget preparation has to be one of the most daunting and difficult tasks for any Finance Minister in any developing country like ours. Yet, our own Minister, the Hon Saisarine Kowlessar and his team have managed to project a realistic plan which caters for positive growth for the third successive year, coupled with low inflation and relatively stable exchange rates. I think that congratulations are in order.

Mr Speaker, for the second successive year during a budget debate, the chairs on the opposite side of the House remain empty. I cannot help but agree with Adam Sinclair who wrote a letter to the Editor of the Daily Chronicle of Tuesday 1 April of this year, in which he said, and I quote:

The PNC/R, having lost their debating skills and can only indulge in monologues at their dull press conferences, find themselves unable to indulge in the cut and thrust of Parliamentary debate, and thus are more comfortable outside than in @

So, Mr Speaker, once again, for the second successive year, forty-two percent of the people of this country have no one to represent their views on this most important document, which represents the Government's financial plan for 2003. I can only say to that 42 percent of the population that, notwithstanding the fact that their elected representatives have abdicated their responsibility to their constituents, this caring and responsible People Progressive Party/Civic Government has, since 1992, governed, and will continue to govern in 2003 and beyond, for the benefit of all the people of Guyana. And I also urge that 42 percent of our populace to exercise their choice more wisely the next time they have to mark their ballot.

Mr Speaker, one of the hallmarks of this Government is its recognition that Guyana is not Georgetown or Region 4, and hence, it has used whatever resources are available, limited as these are, to improve infrastructure and standard of living throughout the 216,000 square kilometers of this country. And you have heard from my colleague Ministers Nokta, Ramsammy, Rodrigues, Jeffrey and Baksh, as well as the Members of Parliament from the various Regions about these testimonies to our commitment to the well-being of Guyanese regardless of race, religion, culture or political persuasion.

Mr Speaker, I do not wish to repeat what my colleagues have already said during this debate, so I will endeavour to bring to the attention of this Honourable House, as well as the Honourable Members who, even though they may not be occupying their seats in this House, I have no doubt are following the proceedings now taking place, some matters which bear mention in this debate. And I challenge the media to take the message to them as well as the people of Guyana in a fair and balanced manner. In this context I am constrained to say that in reading the *Stabroek News* of yesterday, Tuesday 8 April, I was very disappointed to see that there was an extensive report of the contribution of the Hon Member Mrs Sheila Holder to this debate with only a brief comment on the contribution of the Honourable Prime Minister, and no mention at all of the contributions of the six other Members of this Honourable House who spoke on Monday. And, Mr Speaker, if one looks at the *Stabroek News*, today, it seems these proceedings do not even merit mention. It is as if they have decided that, like the PNC/R Members of Parliament, that they will boycott these proceedings.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security provide services especially to the poor and vulnerable of our society, and, in spite of anything that has been said, we do this in a fair and transparent manner. The Hon Dr Dale Bisnauth, my colleague Minister, has brought this House up-to-date on matters relating to the Labour administration of the Ministry. I will endeavour to bring the House up-to-date on the activities of the Human Services and Social Security Department of the Ministry.

On a daily basis, Mr Speaker, I have been accused of discrimination on the basis of race and/or political persuasion in administering and giving these services to the people of this country. But, our records are available for anyone to peruse, and the Officers of my Ministry can testify to my policy of evenhanded treatment of all who try to access our services.

Mr Speaker, we continue to give Probation and Family Welfare Services, in spite of staff shortages and other challenges. Last year, with the assistance of UNICEF, we recognized during meetings of a National Task Force on Street Children, that one of the main problems that was stopping children from attending school, and causing dropping out - and we have to deal with the problem of street children and dropouts - was that some children, too many children of this country, did not have a Guyanese identity evidenced by a birth certificate. In some cases their births had been registered but no certificates were available. In some instances their births had never been registered. During last year we commenced a campaign of birth registration, and I am pleased to say that we have had the full cooperation of the Ministry of Home Affairs in this endeavour, and we continue in 2003 to make sure that all the residents of this country have an identity as a Guyanese citizen evidenced by a birth certificate.

We continue to provide social security services to the old and infirm as well as the vulnerable poor throughout Guyana, including almost inaccessible hinterland communities. At great cost we continue to make direct payments to old age pensioners and public assistance beneficiaries in some of the remotest parts of this country, in some of the places that Minister Nokta called that I cannot even remember the names of. I remember names like Monkey Mountain, Paramakatoi Kato and Pomeroon - places where there are no Post Offices. And, for the past year, at exorbitant costs, I must say, and at great danger to our staff, we have been making payments on the East Coast of Demerara communities where the nearest Post Office is Buxton, and this Post Office has been inaccessible, and remains so, to many of our pensioners and public assistance beneficiaries.

Mr Speaker, endemic in any activity where financial assistance and services are being provided by persons to other persons, there are openings for corruption and graft. My Ministry is certainly no exception. It cannot escape the notice of this Honourable House that there have been, and continue to be, accusations leveled against this Government of covering up, and even of condoning corruption. Yet, and this continues to amaze me, when instances of such corruption and graft are uncovered and disciplinary action is taken against the individuals involved, there is loud condemnation and vilification and character assassination of the persons who recommend and/or take such disciplinary action. What is further amazing is that this vocal condemnation comes from the same people who accuse the Government of corruption in the first place - persons including legal practitioners who are unapologetic supporters of the PNC/R, or other opposition forces. They represent the cause of the corrupt officers in public, on television, as well as in the print media, and in our courts of law, demanding justice for the perpetrators of fraud - even reinstatement where persons have been dismissed for such practices.

Mr Speaker, in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security where instances of fraud were discovered during 2001 and 2002 in the distribution of Old Age Pensions, resulting in the dismissal of three senior officers of the Social Security Department, I have personally been threatened, vilified, accused of nepotism and collusion, and accused of being racist; since the dismissed officers are all of Afro-Guyanese origin. I wonder if it is being suggested that I should have applied affirmative action and dismissed an Indo-Guyanese, even though none had been implicated in the fraud.

Mr Speaker, I make no apology for rooting out corruption wherever I find it to exist, and I challenge any of my accusers to find any instance where I have acted improperly.

Mr Speaker, the Officers of my Ministry have been accused of discrimination, both by Indo and Afro-Guyanese against one or towards one or other of the major races over the past two years since I have

been Minister. But, I would like to submit to you, Sir, and to this House, that even though we try to be as objective as possible in screening persons who qualify for assistance, persons who qualify to be called vulnerable, and persons who qualify for assistance from our Difficult Circumstances Department, it is human beings who ultimately make decisions, and there will be persons who are dissatisfied with whatever decision is made. But, when the PNC/R claims that there are communities which are marginalized I would like to bring the attention of this Honourable House to some facts. One very, very big one comes to mind. Mr Speaker, in 2002 the Government, recognizing that there are poor people who cannot afford the necessary school outfits and equipment for their children to go to school, had allocated the sum of \$31.8M from the Poverty Fund to distribute as assistance in the acquisition of school uniforms by children whose parents could not afford to buy their uniforms. We tried to distribute this money in all ten Regions of this country. The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs was given a substantial sum and they had arrangements for the hinterland communities to have groups of people buy material and make the uniforms themselves. But one thing I wish to say to this House is that in the villages of Buxton, Friendship and Foulis, the Ministry assisted over 500 children to get school uniforms as against the whole of Region 3 where we assisted less than 200 children. *[Applause]* If anything we were marginalizing in favour of the community of Buxton which claims that all their bad behaviour and criminal activities stems from being marginalized and discriminated against. In the distribution of that money that was set aside for school uniforms over 10,000 children benefitted, all over this country - Linden, Paramakaitoi, Mabaruma, Leguan, Hog Island, wherever. We depended on people within the community to recommend, the teachers, headmasters and persons like that. Mr Speaker, we recognize that our poor continue to be over-trodden by those who have; and up to this year there exists in Georgetown a Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic which tries to give legal representation and advice to those who cannot afford to pay the lawyers who charge fees which are way above the means of those people. The Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic however, has over the years, been given monies from various sources. Those sources have dried up and agencies such as the

Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic were forced to come to the Government for some assistance. When that happened, Cabinet, recognizing how inequitable something like that is, that the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic of necessity has limitations and can only assist within Georgetown and some areas outside, has decided that what we need to do is to have a plan to provide legal aid for vulnerable people throughout Guyana. And it is to this end that shortly a proposal, in the next week, is going to be taken to Cabinet to outline plans for providing legal aid to vulnerable people in all the Regions of this country - limited at first, until we can get systems organized and then in a more structured manner. For this, \$10M has been included in the Budget for my Ministry to begin the process.

Mr Speaker, water is a necessary commodity. There is no way that anybody, even if he or she lives in a plastic shack behind the sea wall, can do without potable water. But, as Minister Baksh said water comes at a cost. And our very poor, our very vulnerable, the people who my Ministry looks at and deals with on a daily basis, may not afford to pay for their water. We recognize this, and the Ministries of Water and Human Services and Social Security are currently working on a proposal which we can take to Cabinet, and hope we can convince them to allocate some of our poverty funds to assist those people who cannot afford to pay their full water bills, to assist them to pay, at least, part of their water bill, so that people will not have to break the mains or steal water and so cause wastage. All of these things, Mr Speaker, we are doing out of care and concern for the poor and the vulnerable. And I can tell you, Sir, in my Ministry those are sometimes all the people we see in a day.

Mr Speaker, in Women's Affairs - which is something very, very important, we have recognized that our work with women seems to have backfired a little bit, because we have given them a sense of independence and recognition of their true worth, and it has resulted in some men feeling a bit inferior and, somehow, domestic violence occurs because the women recognize what their worth is. So, our Women's Affairs Bureau has embarked on programmes to work with men and women in all communities as groups and in other places, and, in fact, we at the

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Ministry have, in collaboration with UNICEF, in the year 2000, trained 72 community volunteers. These people are not being paid, they are volunteering their services to work at village level over the whole of Region 2, from the Pomeroon to Supenaam, to Charity, to work with people in their villages to try to alleviate the problems of domestic violence, to intervene when there are quarrels between husbands and wives and stuff like that. And, I must say, we have been hearing of successes and, in fact, will be evaluating the programme later this month or next month.

The Guyana Women's Leadership Institute has just finished preparing a strategic plan which will take this programme into another Phase and we continue to try to train and to build capacity in women to become leaders at the Local Government, at the Regional level and, ultimately, at the Central Government level. Recognizing also that women, when they are poor, are even more vulnerable, we of the Difficult Circumstances Unit in a small way try, to encourage women to engage in small income generating activities. This has been somewhat successful. But, in the Budget, if we read on Page 41 there the Finance Minister tells us about the three-year UNDP Private Sector Initiative which will spend US\$1.5M over the three years in specialist training and so on for about 250 entrepreneurs. The project itself, to be administered by the Guyana Manufacturers Association, will target women, indigenous peoples, youths, unemployed, school leavers, and even private and public sector employees who will like to own their own businesses. This can only result in generation of income and creation of employment. There is also the European Union \$600M that has been made available to assist grass-roots organizations to identify projects that generate income and create employment. So, while we look at the aged, the old and infirm, while we look at the provision of water and the provision of Legal aid and the provision of school supplies, we are also trying to empower our poor to generate their own income, not necessarily to become millionaires, but to stop them from being beggars.

Mr Speaker, there is one area that my Ministry is concerned with - the Cooperatives Division. And more and more, since we have been

looking at cooperative societies, what I have discovered is that, over the three decades before 1992, what seemed to have happened is that cooperative societies were formed for the specific purpose of putting into the hand of a few supporters of the then administration, huge tracts of land in the name of cultivation or housing or whatever. And what has happened is that the management committees of those cooperatives have manipulated the books and systems so that they are now personally benefiting, and you have people who are fighting that they are members and not getting the work. We have to unravel all of this deceit that is going on, and that, I can tell you is a costly and very, very painstaking job. The Ministry, however, is equal to the challenge and we are working very, very hard to unravel some of these things.

Mr Speaker, the People National Congress/Reform, consequent to their stated objective to make the country ungovernable, continues their campaign, started by the late Honourable Leader, Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte, of slow fire, more fire and so on. They attempt to convince the people that this country is in crisis that Guyana is on the brink of disaster if not extinction. The Honourable Member, Mr Corbin, in his efforts to convince the nation of impending doom, staged his now infamous motion of 19 February, occupying this Honourable House for over 12 hours of debate, and opposition forces continue to sponsor events calculated to destabilize.

Mr Speaker, there are certain sections and members of society who call the Government weak, and there are some who say every time the PNC/R says jump we ask how high. Some people are saying that our participation in that debate, which some see as political grandstanding by the new PNC/R Leader, was a sign of weakness. And some say that we should retaliate in kind. Some say that when the people had stormed the Office of the President on 3 July 2002, all 19 should have been dead instead of two. Some say the police are being shot and they should shoot back. But, Mr Speaker, this Government and the people who put us here are not violence-prone. We do not believe that answers lie in violence; we do not believe in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, otherwise we will end up with blind people who cannot choose.

We believe in working for development and not destruction. Mr Speaker, when I look at the antics of the PNC/R and the other opposition forces I am reminded of an extract from a novel, *The Schoolmaster*, by Trinidadian Earl Lovelace, in which the priest, Father Vincent, and his acolytes, are being guided over the hills by an unrepentant drunk, Benn, who engages the priest in a conflict of will and words. The Priest had offered to pray for Benn to help him solve his drinking problem and Benn had refused the offer. When the Priest asked why Benn refused the offer of prayer Benn replied that when the Priest prayed he said, and *lead us not in temptation...* and he did not wish to be kept away from his temptation. In Benn's words, which I quote, *man has need of temptations as he has need of a woman. How else is a man a man if he is not tempted; if he is not proved? Christ was tempted, Peter was tempted and man needs to be tempted. We have need of our temptations so that the test will prepare us. You may lead me away from my test. I say lead me to my test and give me the strength to pass.*

Mr Speaker, this Government looks on each distraction engineered by the PNC/R, and other detractors, as a test which we have to pass and which we always pass; and it can only make us stronger in our resolve and commitment to the people of Guyana, the majority of whom put their faith in us since 1992 to lead them to a better life which we all so love. I say to our detractors, bring on the tests. We have passed many since 1992, and we have the strength, determination and capacity to pass anything that they can throw our way. When we betray the trust of our supporters, they themselves will tell us to leave, speaking through the ballot box and, until then, in the words of our Minister of Finance, we intend to confront *the challenges and stay on course for a prosperous Guyana. [Applause]*

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

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Hon Navin O Chandarpal: Mr Speaker, I rise to lend support to the motion for the approval of the Estimates for the Public Sector and the Budget for the financial year 2003, moved so ably by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

In his well-constructed presentation, Minister Kowlessar summarized our Government objective when he declared, I quote:

...our intent, our purpose, indeed, our goal is not to give up, but to consolidate and expand our hard won gains; fortified in the knowledge that we are doing what is right for the people of this country.

This is what this Budget is about. It has been crafted against the background of the challenges existing in the global and domestic theaters. It seeks growth within a stable macro-economic environment. It envisages the nation attaining greater height, being put on a progressively higher growth path with our people enjoying a better standard of living. It is for these reasons that this Budget is being presented under the theme, *Confronting the Challenges; Staying on Course for a Prosperous Guyana*.

Mr Speaker, this theme is well reflected in developments in the Agriculture Sector, particularly in the traditional sectors of rice and sugar. Agriculture contributes one-third of our country GDP with sugar providing 18.8 percent and rice 3.2 percent. During 2002, the sugar sector recorded a very successful year. The record production of 331,067 tonnes of sugar was the highest since the nationalization in 1976, surpassing the last highest production in recent years of 321,000 in 1999. This gives us an increase over 2001 of 16.4 percent. Mr Speaker, cane yields also increased from 62.2 tonnes per hectare in 2000 to 80.4 tonnes per hectare in 2002 with sugar yields being 6.8 tonnes of sugar per hectare in 2001 increasing to 7.3 tonnes of sugar per hectare in 2002. This shows very clearly that, not only the quantity of production increased, but also the quality of our produce was improving. These are important elements in what is needed for the realization of the objectives set out in the strategic plan for the sugar industry.

Sugar

Many persons have been questioning why the Government is pursuing this strategic plan. They are questioning why we are seeking to increase the acreage planting at the Skeldon Estate, and why we are building a new factory there. But, Mr Speaker, we have a very important difficulty to confront. And, as we are speaking on this Budget of confronting these challenges, here is a typical example of one where we have to make very firm decisions as we seek to move forward, and that is that sugar is extremely important and critical to our national economy. If it is that tomorrow we can find some other product which will very quickly provide us with something to fill the gap that will be left in our GDP, then we can consider it. But, we must recognize that sugar is important in many different ways. We recognize its contribution of 18.8 percent to GDP, but we must also look to see how many workers and their families are directly dependent on the sugar industry. We must also recognize that many services are spin-offs from cane cultivation and sugar production and so we will see that those figures could be much larger. The impact, both in economic and social terms, is much larger than these figures will indicate. Even so, that in itself would not justify taking the steps that we intend to take if it were not for certain factors that we consider to be positive in our consideration. The fact that we have seen these improvements, both in terms of the quantity and the quality of production, gives us the encouragement that is needed to pursue the agriculture improvement plan that is part and parcel of the strategic plan for the sugar industry.

The Honourable Member, Mr Ravindra Dev, in questioning this expansion, said the fact that we have been able to have an increase in production suggests that we do not need the expansion at Skeldon in order to achieve our objective. But it is not only an issue of increasing production, producing more sugar. It is also the question of the cost at which we produce that sugar. And, it is a fact, Mr Speaker, that the cost of production varies from one estate to the other. The reality is that the East Berbice Estates have a cost of production much lower than the national average. If our average is about US\$0.17 cents per pound then

we have in most of the Demerara Estates production costs that are around US0.20 cents per pound while in the East Berbice Estates we have production cost at about US0.13 cents per pound. Therefore, we have to capitalize and to take advantage of the fact that there are some inherent factors that are there to allow us to further reduce our cost of production. If we produce more in the areas where we can produce at a lower cost, then nationally our cost of production will be much lower.

But, then, we are told that there are still some risks involved because of what is taking place globally. My colleague Minister Rohee will deal with some of the issues related to the negotiations that are currently taking place. But it is necessary for us to recognize that, even though there are those who are using the argument that there are stockpiles of sugar globally, and that these are used to automatically create low prices, we should look at what happened in just one year when, in spite of these stockpiles, the world price rose from below US0.6 cents per pound to US0.8 cents per pound. This indicates to us that it is not necessarily a fact that having these excesses of sugar will keep the prices forever at those low values. We need to note that about three-quarter of all sugar produced will be consumed in the countries of production or traded on preferential markets and therefore, allowing scope for us to find the markets that will assist us. About 50 percent of Guyana's production was traded under preferential terms in the European Union in the form of the Sugar Protocol and the Special Preferential Sugar Agreement. This has developed through European Union support for the ACP countries and characterized within the COTONOU Agreement of 2002. The support from the European Union is being threatened, but we are currently in the process of negotiating economic partnership agreements which are due to come into effect in 2008 and which would recognize the provision of the COTONOU Agreement for protection of sensitive products such as sugar, as well as the special legal status of the sugar protocol. We do not believe that our interests have been totally ignored and that the ACP political clout has been eroded.

Also, Mr Speaker, we developed some of our confidence in moving forward from the fact that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy

offers a common external tariff of 40 percent in sugar, and our industry is the only one in the Caribbean that is continually recording improvements. Our sister nations of CARICOM have always supported Guyana's sugar industry and we have seen our exports during last year increase by 33 percent to CARICOM countries to a volume of 60,000 tonnes. Trade with Haiti has also commenced. Last year we were able to sell, initially, 7,500 tonnes and are hoping to do much more this year. There is no reason for us to shift our focus from agriculture at this time because we have demonstrated that that is where we have comparative advantage, and for sugar in particular, that is what we do best.

Mr Speaker, it is indeed anticipated that the WTO will force the EU to reduce its sugar subsidies and this will probably result in some lessening of the current value of the preferences enjoyed by Guyana and other ACP States. However, as we said earlier, no one expects these preferences to disappear immediately, and Guyana's current access to the EU markets could well expand with EU internal production cuts as a result of removal of subsidies thereby mitigating the impact of price reductions. Mr Speaker, we believe that there is convincing empirical and factual evidence that allows us to make educated and realistic decisions on sugar and hence our objectives set out in the strategic plan for the sugar industry.

The Honourable Member Mr Dev also claimed that although we have increased production these are not resulting in increased benefits to the workers. The Honourable Member Mr Mustapha in his maiden presentation to this House has very effectively, from his own working experience and his involvement directly with the sugar workers, pointed out how many benefits the sugar workers have been receiving. I want to say that the Government of Guyana recognizes that these positive developments in the sugar industry have come about because there is a greater level of understanding and satisfaction in which the Government, management and the workers share a common objective and are working together to ensure that there is greater production. Because it is only if we have greater production with higher efficiency then we will have more goods to share. And that is one of the lessons that the sugar industry can

give to this country. We cannot share more if we produce less and if we seek to undermine the production base by taking a position such as making this country ungovernable. Then, the goods will not be there and those who are dissatisfied cannot be assisted if we do not take this course. That is why the lessons from sugar are very important for us.

One other point raised by the Honourable Member Mr Dev is that he might have been more inclined to support the Strategic Plan but he cannot do so because he claims that Government is abandoning co-generation as an option for the expansion. I need to state very clearly that we are not abandoning co-generation. Co-generation is a key element under consideration for the expansion plan. But, what would have been observed is that, in the efforts to find funding for the strategic plan, we have had to take separate components of that plan and to seek funding in different ways. Therefore, what has been highlighted is the main initial element of that expansion which is the new factory being built and the expansion of the cultivation area. That is the key element. Additionally, there are the value-added exercises that would be linked to that process as we move along. These include not only co-generation, but the establishment of a refinery and the establishment of a distillery. So the overall value that we will obtain from this process can be much higher. But we made a distinction because Central Government has to be funding the new factory whereas we are seeking the involvement of the private sector in developing the other areas that would be necessary.

Rice

Mr Speaker, the fortunes of the rice sub-sector were not following the bright direction that sugar was able to obtain. This was because, unlike sugar, the rice sector was much more vulnerable to the extremes of weather that we experienced last year. We had difficulties as we approached the end of the first crop last year in that some areas suffered from excessive rainfall. Not only was the first crop affected, but the extent of that rainfall prevented land preparation in two major rice growing areas of the country, particularly Black Bush Polder and MMA. As a result we entered the second crop, last year, with much less than the

expected acreage put into cultivation. As a result we experienced a decline of 10.7 percent in production, achieving 287,000 tonnes in 2002 as against 322,000 tonnes in 2001. But, I must say, Mr Speaker, that it is heartening to note that in spite of the other extreme weather affecting us at the start of the first crop this year, that is an extensively dry period which, we all know, is affecting our water sources - conservancy is very low, irrigation water is very scarce - the Government was able to give assistance to ensure that water was available to most of the areas, and so this crop could have been planted in a much larger acreage than the first crop last year. The result, Mr Speaker, we do not have the final figures, but, from indications from all of the Regions, we are expecting that this crop will be larger than it was in the corresponding period last year. Also sometimes, once you overcome that initial hurdle from the lack of irrigation water, the continuation of the dry spell allowed us to have harvesting and the growth of the crops in a much more positive way so that the yields are also better in this first crop. Mr Speaker, this is a very encouraging sign for us to continue our work.

Again, the Honourable Member Mr Dev sought to downplay the role of Government in bringing about these results in the rice sector. He was only looking at this Budget for indications that Government was intending to assist the rice sector. But, Mr Speaker, Government's assistance is ongoing in many different aspects of production in the rice sector. I had already indicated to this Honourable House that there is a ten-year strategic plan that covers all aspects of the process - from preparation of seeds to the cultivation itself, to the support services during cultivation, to post-harvest activities and unto marketing. That process has been advanced and the European Union is expected to provide assistance that will allow us to, very quickly, start in terms of getting results within that strategic plan. But, in the meantime, Government gave tremendous assistance. It is not true to say that farmers have not benefited from the financial arrangements made by Government and the banking sector. There are some who have had difficulties because of particular positions taken in specific banks in which they sought to interpret that agreement in a way different from what was intended. We have had to

intervene to seek to have many of these cases remedied. The Minister of Finance, and His Excellency the President, from time to time, had to get involved as we tried to remedy this. Many farmers have been able to benefit and to have some breathing space in order to proceed. Also, very recently, the extension of that arrangement to assist farmers who have had loans in excess of \$10M has been developed. There are a few final things to be done, and we hope very shortly that a number of these farmers will be benefitting from the same or similar arrangements.

Mr Speaker, we could have had many more difficulties last year and in this current crop had it not been for the timely intervention of the Government through the GRDB, along with the involvement of the Rice Producers Association, to deal with problems relating to paddy bugs; but assistance was given to farmers to allow them to treat, at a very early stage, to prevent any significant losses to crops in most of the areas.

In the area of providing fertilizers, timely interventions have also assisted in ensuring that the final price to the farmers has also been reduced because of arrangements, in which some of the middle men have been cut out, and a more direct arrangement put in place; and they have been able to obtain fertilizers at a reduced price. We know, too, that, along with all the other areas there have been benefits. When fuel prices went up because of the scaling of the duties, we have been able to make some impact on the price of fertilizers to farmers.

Mr Speaker, there are a number of support areas in the agriculture sector which have been performing their functions with the intention of improving agriculture production, both in the traditional crops and in the other crops as Minister Sawh would have referred to in his presentation.

The work of NARI, the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Secretariat, the Hydromet Service, the Poor Rural Communities Support Services Programme, the MMA Authority and the Guyana School of Agriculture are all entities that have continued to make their contributions and if we were to go through the details of all that they have done we would see that their involvement has helped significantly to bring better results to

the agriculture sector though much more needs to be done if the objectives, particularly as outlined by Minister Sawh, for rapid increases in the non-traditional are to be carried out. For each of these areas we have specific plans that have been developed so that they can effectively make their contributions.

Mr Speaker, overall for our economy, our Minister of Finance has set us a very clear objective; *staying on course through overcoming these challenges for a prosperous Guyana*. In her presentation the Honourable Member, Mrs Holder, indicated that she could not be happy with the objective of achieving prosperity by staying on course because she felt that that course has not been defined properly. But, Mr Speaker, the issue of staying on course is very important because, on 5 October 1992, this country changed course. We were headed in a direction of total destruction under the administration of the People's National Congress and, with the restoration of democracy the course changed to one that has brought hope and that allows us to give so many possibilities to that achievement of prosperity. *[Applause]* With that change in 1992, we moved in a course away from dictatorship to a course of democracy. We moved from a course of alienation to one of inclusion; from a course of suppression of rights to genuine freedoms; from a course of social decay to one of revival; and from a course of collapse to one of rebuilding. Indeed, Mr Speaker, that course of rebuilding Guyana was charted by the father of our Nation, our late President, Dr Cheddi Jagan. A course in which we have set the target of achieving prosperity through increased production and a better system of sharing of the benefits - the wealth of this country. That has been the course we have set ourselves on. Taking that course resulted in tremendous growth and development as reflected in the achievements in the first term of the PPP/Civic, when we averaged a growth rate of between 6 percent to 7 percent per annum, because we had less challenges in that period than what followed. The challenges that we have to consider are many, but we can arrange them in three groups. We have the challenge of,

1. The natural conditions...

The Speaker: Before you proceed to the next two groups, Honourable Member, your time is up.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, I wish to move that the Honourable Member be given 15 minutes to conclude his speech.

* Put and agreed to.

The Speaker: You may proceed Honourable Member.

Hon Navin O Chandarpal: Thank you Hon Member Reepu and Mr Speaker.

The other two areas that we need to consider as challenges are:

2. Global realities and
3. Local reactions.

Natural conditions have been affecting us, as I pointed out. For example, in terms of what we have to expend on drainage and irrigation in our country - this is a very costly affair. Not only costly in terms of the resources we have to put in place, but also costly in terms of the losses we incur because, in spite of our best efforts, the system we have in place for drainage and irrigation cannot effectively take care of the extremes of weather when they really hit us. When we have intensive rainfall for several days our system is not geared to fully and totally deal with it. When we have long dry seasons, to get water to the cultivation is a very costly affair. But we can understand that natural conditions have their cause and are beyond our control.

Global realities are also affecting us as we have seen the impact, again, on our rice and sugar industries - the lowering of prices, the erosion of preferential markets, (the situation not of our making) the impact of war on our economy. We can make some contributions toward changing, but we do not control these factors. Therefore, Mr Speaker, we have to find ways to respond to these challenges. But, what occurred,

especially in the last four or five years, was an unfortunate closeness of the impact of these three factors. The El Nino/La Nina phenomena, the drop in prices in commodities, not only rice and sugar, but gold and timber... all affected us tremendously.

But, we were further threatened and underwent greater difficulties because of those challenges that arose from local reaction. When the main opposition party lost the elections again in 1997 and embarked on a course to make this country ungovernable, what they did was to introduce a challenge - which was of our own making internally, in our own country. That is what made that challenge more regrettable, because a better approach, a more responsible approach, by the main opposition party could have, and still can, reduce the very negative and very drastic effects ensuing from that type of challenge. We have seen it manifesting itself in political instability, in organized crime, in the merging of these two, and the results we have seen in the shying away of investors, in the waste of resources, and once again, if I can quote the Minister of Finance in his presentation when he said, all of us should ponder on the following:

If so much can be accomplished under extreme circumstances, how much more could be achieved if the Government did not have to engage in costly and avoidable distractions.

Mr Speaker, here is where we need to focus our attention. We have heard, and we thought that there would be changes, when the main opposition party, in approaching the last election, put as its motto in its manifesto *Put Guyana First* but, Mr Speaker, all we have seen in real terms from their actions, tell us what they mean by putting first - that is summarized by what we are observing in the chairs over there... they are empty. Those promises, those intentions, are just like those chairs, empty promises and empty positions. [Applause] They are using an excuse of marginalization. Many speakers have pointed out that those excuses are also empty. They cannot come up with examples, and, indeed, marginalization did exist when the People's National Congress formed the Government of this country. [Applause]

Mr Speaker, in seeking to find a solution which most people of this country would be comfortable with, and that is to have an atmosphere that reduces that challenge, the main parties would have to be working together. One of the greatest mistakes that has been repeated many times, and repeated even during this debate, was one in which an attempt is made to say that there is joint culpability by the Government and the Opposition Parties. That is far from reality, Mr Speaker. The PPP/Civic has its foundations in the principles of unity and equality. This was formally declared many times before, and even as recent as 1993 by the late Dr Cheddi Jagan when he said:

And when we talk about development we mean development with a human face.

For us people come first, they are the centre of everything. By people we mean all the peoples of this country, across the barriers of race and ethnicity, religion, gender, political affiliation, whether they live in the hinterland or on the coast, whether they are able-bodied or handicapped, rich or poor.

On the other hand, the PNC/R is bent on acquiring power at any cost to the expense of the nation. Those who have a genuine interest in seeing our nation heal its wounds must also have the commitment to push the PNC/R to change its path.

In another two weeks we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a genuine leap in our country's history, its historical development - the victory of the PPP in the first ever elections under universal adult suffrage in 1953. *[Applause]* That, Mr Speaker, was a massive expression of national unity when all forces came together. And in that victory hope was generated for our nation. The objective of a prosperous Guyana was seen to be very close when that victory was achieved. But, unfortunately, that hope was fractured by the intrigues of colonial and local reaction. The split in the PPP set the ground for division. Mr Speaker, many times the late President, Dr Jagan, often repeated the hope, and in

his words, *to see a return to the spirit of 1953*. It is not too late to seek to realize that hope, that dream. We should use the occasion of that 50th Anniversary to find ways in which we can restore that hope which that victory generated.

Again, in closing, Mr Speaker, let us take guidance from the sugar industry. Sugar was responsible for all groups except our indigenous peoples coming to these shores. Sugar has been the mainstay of our economy but sugar production has required that all our people work together. In the same way as we face the challenges in the sugar sector, together we must do so in all aspects of our national life. Challenges may be formidable but can always be surmounted. In the words, again of our late President, father of the Nation, in 1993, he said:

I have absolute faith in the promise that this nation has a bright future. I invite you to share my vision of a bright tomorrow. Such idealism may seem like idle talk, but I know from experience that faith in a prosperous tomorrow have moved men, from time immemorial, to achieve the impossible.

We are not looking for the impossible, Mr Speaker, we only need to overcome the difficult. A prosperous Guyana is achievable if we confront the challenges and stay on course as proposed in the Budget presented by our Minister of Finance. That objective can easily be realized.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. *[Applause]*

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Honourable Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation.

Hon Clement J Rohee: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Finance must be complimented, once again, for presenting a Budget that, beyond the shadow of a doubt, gives comfort to this nation of ours. While on the one hand it gives comfort to the nation or the overwhelming majority of people, it gives discomfort to a few who are indeed green with envy over the fact that we have managed to stay the course over the past

eleven years. This Budget, Mr Speaker, makes one, and I would be bold enough to say, makes many Guyanese have what you call a sense of feeling good. Usually, in the lives of ordinary people, there is a sense of great expectation when Budget time comes around. People, the business community, the farmers, the workers, people from all walks of life tend to look forward to the presentation of the Budget and debates like this with a great sense of expectation. They wonder to what extent the Budget will affect their daily lives, to what extent it will affect their businesses, and so forth. And it has now become routine over the years that people in this country do not any longer feel a sense of uncertainty, feel a sense of trepidation, feel a sense of discomfort, when the occasion for presenting Budget comes around, precisely because they have become so accustomed to the fact that this Government is a caring and concerned Government which in no way places unnecessary burdens on the backs of the Guyanese people. The feel-good factor therefore, Mr Speaker, is one that I think characterizes this Budget, as has been the case with its predecessors. There have been no hidden surprises. There is no hidden agenda in the Budget. It is clear for everyone to see the direction in which the Government is seeking to go and to take the nation over the next fiscal year. It has been said before, and I say it again, that any budget must be placed in a contextual framework and, in our case, as has been the case on previous occasions, budgets presented by the PPP/C administration through the Minister of Finance have always taken into account our national peculiarities, the conditions obtaining in the country, as well as the international and regional circumstances in which Guyana has to interact with the nations of the world, and with the economic realities that obtain externally. When we hear the prophets of gloom and doom every year when we present budgets, we have to ask ourselves, as one of my colleagues has asked in a rhetorical question before, whether those persons who come into this Honourable House to make prophecies that do not incite or excite optimism of the people, have any sense of our history? What sense do they have of where this country has come since 1992? Are they not intelligent enough to make comparative analyses as to what we are going through now, what we are benefitting from now, and what took place years ago?

Mr Speaker, Guyana, under the PPP/C administration, has come a very far way, and we have many milestones to show the path we have traversed since 1992. And we have to be careful that we do not allow ourselves to be blinded by negative factors. Nobody is saying that we should not speak. In every development process there is positive and negative - and we need to have a sense of balance when making analysis of how a country is developing. Some tend to focus only on the negative aspects of the developmental processes and, of course, we do not believe that this is helpful in any way. When we look at our television screens at the present time, whether it is the BBC or CNN, and we hear about the Operation Shock and Awe in which the bombardment took place on Iraq - when one brings that into focus in terms of what took place at this National Assembly over the past two days, one gets a sense of shock and awe with respect to the kind of negative bombardment that has been emanating from the minority side of this house in respect of the direction in which the Government wishes to go vis-a-vis the 2003 Budget. So shock and awe is not limited to what is taking place in the Middle East. It is also manifesting itself in this hallowed chamber, insofar as the views of some are concerned. There are some who put themselves on a pedestal and make themselves as though they are above all that is realistic insofar as governance is concerned. We cannot speak about governance and place the burden of responsibility on the Government of the day without taking due consideration of the other social and political actors out there, because governance does not only involve government, but also a number of other people who have a stake in ensuring that the country, the nation, is on a path to development and progress.

Mr Speaker, the Budget presentation by the Minister of Finance has said quite a lot and has given a lot of food for thought. The reference was made to the global economy and the current situation obtaining in the world and its impact on developing countries such as ours. The annual report of the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for 2002 captures very clearly how developing countries will fare in the years 2001 and 2002. This is what he had to say about the period 2001 in retrospect:

During 2001 the world economy experienced a sharp slowdown with output growing by only one percent (1%). Concurrently the volume of world merchandise trade shrank by 1.5% after a growth of 12% in 2000 and an average growth of 7% in the 1990's. In addition, world-wide foreign direct investment inflows slumped by US\$735B in 2001, less than half of the 2000 figures.

Mr Speaker, the Director General of the WTO also went on to state that a key to progress in the world is settling the question of the negotiations on agriculture. In treating with this matter he said that a key to the problems facing the world is agriculture despite its small and diminishing contribution - the GDP in most developed countries receives a disproportionate amount of assistance in the form of subsidies and protection at the border, such assistance distorts markets at home and abroad. He also went on to explain the difficulties that we in developing countries are likely to face as a result of the heavy subsidies which the developed countries put on the agriculture sectors, and the fact that we have to compete with heavily-subsidized agricultural products, which is almost impossible to do.

Mr Speaker, the terms of foreign trade for the developing countries especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be grossly unbalanced. And this is what we are seeking to correct in the negotiations at the World Trade Organizations. I have to point out that what is making these negotiations more complicated is the fact that the major players in these negotiations, especially those from the industrialized countries, are seeking to move away from being team players in the multilateral negotiations, and embarking on their own bilateral negotiations. The point I would like to make is that there is a moving away from multilateralism at the political level, as we have seen recently at the United Nations. It is also manifesting itself at negotiations at the World Trade Organization where the view that is becoming dominant is - if I do not get my way with what I want at the multilateral level, then I will strike out on my own to do as I please at other levels. So what we have happening is, rather than the industrialized countries working within the multilateral

institutions to reach agreement, which all the countries will be party to, they are seeking to branch off on their own and establish their own bilateral agreements, so much so that, in today's world, there are over 240 bilateral agreements around the world. And it is envisaged that, by 2005, we will have about 300 bilateral trade agreements around the world. Mr Speaker, the negotiations are moving fast and furious and, I dare say, they are extremely expensive negotiations to follow, especially for countries like ours, which have very limited resources - human and financial. So, with countries like ours, which have to follow those negotiations as best as we can, this places a tremendous burden on the Government, which has limited resources to do so.

Mr Speaker, the events of 11 September, compounded by the war that is taking place now in Iraq, will obviously place greater burdens and difficulties on developing countries in respect of the negotiations that are taking place. But I would like to make one important point here, and that is that for developing countries such as Guyana the DOHA round of negotiations is much more important than the war in Iraq. For us, the present negotiations at the WTO are much more important than the results that will flow from the war in Iraq. Why do I say so? I say so because we have a lot to lose if these negotiations are not successful, and if the developed countries do not live up to the expectations and the promises they have made several years ago when these negotiations were initiated.

Mr Speaker, our priorities are very clear and very simple. Our priorities are that we need to have what we describe as special and preferential treatment for small vulnerable economies such as ours in these negotiations. That is our top priority. Our second priority is in the negotiations in agriculture. Our third priority is in respect of the negotiations on services. We believe that there is much to be gained by the developing countries in these negotiations in the three areas I just referred to.

At the hemispheric level we continue to press for the establishment of a regional integration fund because we feel that with the establishment

of a Free Trade Area of the Americas small countries like ours are not going to benefit as we would like to, because the level playing field that we keep hearing about, that is being bandied about by the industrialized countries, is a myth. It is not going to happen. There is not going to be a level playing field, precisely because when you look at the realities, when you look at the economies of scale, when you examine the different levels of socioeconomic development of many of the countries in this hemisphere compared to St Kitts, Guyana, Suriname, or whichever the case may be, unless we have financing for development vis-a-vis the Regional Integration Fund, we are not going to benefit from the Free Trade Area of the Americas. That is precisely why there is so much skepticism among the Caribbean countries, that is if we do not have this fund in place, we are likely to express reservations about the efficacy of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Mr Speaker, we are also involved in the negotiations with the European Union for the establishment of an Economic Partnership Agreement. At WTO, the European Union level, the FTA level and the CARICOM level, we are involved in these main theatres of negotiations and, as I said, they are putting a tremendous amount of burden on the limited resources that we have at our disposal.

Mr Speaker, Guyana is a country that is dependant on the revenues that we garner from trade at the border, and foreign trade is an integral part of Guyana's national economy. In 2001 exports from country amounted to 85.7 percent of our country's GDP. In 2002, exports from our country amounted to 118 percent of our GDP. This shows how dependant we are, as a nation, on duties earned at the border as a result of imports and exports from the country. We, in examining our trade balances, are doing pretty well. Of course, the situation could be much better. Mr Speaker, in respect of a percentage share of GDP in terms of our major exports. You find, for example, that with sugar, that accounts for 16 percent of our GDP; gold 21.3 percent and fish and shrimp 10 percent. These show a significant shift in the type of commodities we export from Guyana where fish and shrimp, that is to say marine products, have now placed themselves at No. 3 in terms of non-traditional

exports from our country.

Our balance of trade with CARICOM, I must say, is very much in our favour, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, where the balance of trade still remains very much in favour of Trinidad and Tobago and we, of course, have to do as much as we can to shift that. That, of course, will depend to a large extent on the type of investment, the development of industry, and the kind of products we are able to export from Guyana, to compete in a much more competitive way on the regional market.

Mr Speaker, we at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation have been faced with some challenges which we did not expect, meaning, for example, the challenge by Australia and Brazil to the European Union Sugar Regime. Together with a number of sugar supplying states in the ACP we have launched a very aggressive lobbying exercise to ensure that the measures that are taken by Australia and Brazil, vis-a-vis this challenge, that the impact if this challenge is successful by these countries does not bring the type of collateral damage that has been brought upon other countries which have won their cases at the World Trade Organization.

Mr Speaker, we are also currently engaged in a number of bilateral negotiations with other CARICOM countries, other countries in the Region - the Dominican Republic, Columbia, Cuba. We are currently negotiating a free trade agreement with Costa Rica and with Canada. There are prospects for negotiating a free trade agreement with CARICOM and MERCOSUR countries. We are currently bringing to a closure the Partial Scope Agreement which we have signed with Brazil.

Mr Speaker, these agreements are not just agreements for the sake of agreements. Each and every one of these agreements is aimed at bringing greater benefits for the Guyanese people, that is to say, ensuring that products exported from our country get better prices in those markets, and, at the same time, ensuring that products imported from those

countries into Guyana are at a much cheaper cost and, therefore, within the reach of the ordinary man and woman.

Mr Speaker, I was pleased to note, in the presentation by the Minister of Finance, that there are plans to introduce a value-added tax by 2006. This is an extremely important measure, because at the end of the day, when we sign on to these agreements at the WTO, the FTA and the ACP/EU level, they will have serious revenue implications. The question is, if we do not gather the revenues we are currently gathering at the borders in terms of duties and taxes, where is the money to come from to fill that gap? The value-added tax, to my mind, seems to be the best solution as a measure that would bring some degree of relief to the Treasury when we introduce these Free Trade Agreements, thus doing away with duties and taxes that we are currently gaining at the border. Therefore, I think that the measure, in terms of beginning the preparations now, for the introduction of VAT by 2006 is an important step to be taken and must be seen in the context of the intention to sign on to a number of the free trade agreements bearing in mind the revenue implications they will have for the economy.

Mr Speaker, the other dimension for the Ministry for which I have responsibility is the area of International Cooperation. Here the key area of focus is resource mobilization. That is to say, seeking to engage with friendly countries, the whole question of resource mobilization with specific emphasis on technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening. The mechanisms that we use to garner these resources from friendly countries is usually the Joint Commission. As you would know, during the recent visit by his Excellency the President to China, we held the Eighth Meeting of the Guyana/China Joint Commission, in which a number of agreements were signed, including a bilateral investment treaty which will allow Chinese investors to come to Guyana to invest in key sectors of our economy, thus opening up new areas of opportunities for development in Guyana. We have very active Joint Commissions with Cuba, India, China, Columbia and other countries. Mr Speaker, we believe that Guyana has benefited tremendously from the activities of these Joint Commissions, particularly in the medical field

where we have a number of medical practitioners boosting the medical sector, from the human resource point of view, in this country.

Mr Speaker, we are also currently engaged in negotiating a number of other bilateral investment treaties with other countries such as Switzerland and South Korea. We just recently signed the International Transport Agreement with the Brazilians, thus elevating the road from Guyana to Brazil and vice versa to an international highway and allowing movement of goods and services between our two countries to the extent where trade between our countries will now benefit significantly.

We have also, during the course of this year, signed agreements with the Japanese and Chinese Governments for the construction of the new New Amsterdam Hospital and for the International Conference Centre at Sophia where the Headquarters of CARICOM will be located.

Mr Speaker, we pride ourselves on the fact that, while we have a very small budget, we are engaged in some major and key activities which are aimed at bringing about development and progress in this country, and from our own little niche we are making a contribution, which we believe is helping to move the nation forward.

Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude my presentation on one note, and in this respect I would like to make the point, that it is now eleven years since the PPP/C has been in the Government; and people must remember that this was not eleven years of easy sailing. These were not eleven years on easy street. At every stage of the process, from the day we won the elections in 1992, there were those who sought to throw us off-course, using different types of stratagems and subterfuges to do so. In 1992, we set the course, as Minister Chandarpal pointed out, under the first democratically elected President of this country, Dr Cheddi Jagan. Unfortunately, by the end of his first term we suffered the loss of Dr Jagan. Then, with the elections in 1997, there were some who sought to throw us off-course, who sought to disrupt the course we had set for ourselves. We had to accommodate by reducing our term to 2001,

i.e. 1997 to 2001; our course was reduced to three years. And it is not easy for a Government to work as diligently as it could, as it would wish to, to implement its development programmes in situations where those who want to talk, or those who talk glibly all the time about the need for the country to make progress, but at the same time they are putting in place obstacles which are preventing progress from being made. Who, in this world, Mr Speaker, is going to invest in a country which they see constantly as politically unstable? Is the Government so stupid to keep shooting itself in the foot to create political instability, thus denying investments? Obviously, this is a totally illogical conclusion to draw.

The Speaker: Time, Honourable Member.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: I move that the Honourable Member be given 15 minutes to conclude his speech.

Put and agreed to.

The Speaker: You may proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon Clement J. Rohee: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

You recall that we were given six months - in 1992 we were told by the PNC that *we are giving you six months to run this country*. Six months have passed. But, not only time has passed, lives have passed. Those who predicted that we wouldn't last more than six months are no longer with us. We have been here for eleven years and, if they do not watch out, it is quite possible that we might be here for eleven years more. *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, as I said in 1997, they tried to throw us off-course and, in 2001, when we won the elections again, they made another attempt to throw us off-course - in the first days of the Jagdeo administration. But, as we have seen, we have prevailed, and we have held the course. Our hands are firmly on the stem of the ship and all hands, as we have seen from the presentations that have been made here over these past 48 hours, are on deck. We are not going to allow ourselves to be

diverted, or to be thrown off the course, which we have set ourselves since the election of this new Government to Office. Mr Speaker, I believe that the Guyanese people must feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction, must feel a tremendous sense of comfort having heard that, in the Budget for 2003, no unnecessary burdens are being placed on them, at any level whatsoever, and that, once again, the sense of feeling-good will prevail as we continue to make solid progress in 2003.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. *[Applause]*

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, in the tradition of the Westminster Parliamentary System, I rise to conclude this debate. In so doing, I wish to allude to the fact that the Budget covers a wide field of development, and it has gone to the minute detail of identifying projects to be pursued during this year. The budget has broken a tradition, in that pains were taken to point specifically at what action will be taken to bring about a better way of life to take care of the well being and welfare of the people, and to pursue a course which will maintain some degree of growth and stability of our currency. Those are important areas for profound consideration in any budget.

For me, it was an education listening to the Ministers speaking. And I can safely congratulate them all in managing their Ministries efficiently, and for working under extremely difficult conditions and circumstances.

Guyana has problems. It faces many difficulties. But I am one of those who has always been forward-looking and optimistic, and I want to share that optimism this afternoon with the nation, that the future still holds good for a better Guyana, and for a happier people. *[Applause]* What is more, is that when you traverse this country and you speak with its people of all races, creeds, colours, walks of life, of all strata of life, you find that they are all concerned about their country, its development,

its people and, given a chance, the majority, and more than the majority, will contribute effectively to the development of this nation.

I want to convey to the nation this afternoon, that while we have not succeeded in engaging the opposition in the National Assembly, we have been engaging them otherwise. What is going on is to reconcile to bring people closer together, to iron out differences, and to reach resolutions, which will influence a progressive course for the future of this nation. I say that with a great degree of confidence; confidence not only in the country, but in its people.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, very shortly a motion will be brought to the National Assembly - probably early in the new week - to set up the Parliamentary Management Committee. That is a new feature, and Guyana is taking the lead in the Caribbean.

What is more is, when one carefully peruses the constitutional changes, one finds that Guyana's Constitution is the most advanced in the Caribbean. Inclusivity is not merely a word now in Guyana, but it is a reality, and there are constitutional mechanisms, constitutional instruments, constitutional changes, which will bring about that inclusivity. In that, this Government has been committed, still remains committed, to broadening the scope of our democracy, to ensuring that there is involvement of the people at all levels, not only at the political, constitutional and opposition levels, but in the wider society - in business, labour, culture and all fields of life. I look forward to the future still with confidence and with hope that 2003 will be a better year. I was reading the 1990 Budget last night, which was presented by Mr Carl Greenidge, and he confessed in writing in the Budget, of course, that infrastructure in 1990 had collapsed - including schools. We took this country from that state of collapse - virtual disaster - and moved it forward. You can look at any corner of this country today and you will find clear testimony, visible and conspicuous evidence of expansion and development... Thanks to the PPP/C Government. *[Applause]* We have functioned under difficult times, as all the speakers have alluded to but, notwithstanding the impediments, the hurdles, the threats of varying

Wednesday 9 April 2003

kinds, we stood our grounds and have brought the ship this far. I have no doubt that we can take it across to that shore where all the people will find comfort, happiness and prosperity in the land of their birth.

The world is becoming more and more troubled, more and more challenging. While we think our problems are innumerable, and probably insurmountable, when one examines the troubles of other parts of the world one finds that difficulties out there are probably greater than we have got here. We must resolve, at this time of our history, to move forward with faith and confidence and, if we do, and if we act with the feeling and tendency of togetherness or oneness, we can take Guyana out of its difficult times into a time which we all welcome and feel happy about living in.

This Government came to office out of a democratic process - whether it was 1992, 1997 or 2001. Not only were we democratically elected, but those elections were certified as fair and free. So the answer is that the PPP/C Government is a legitimate Government. All the political parties which contested the elections contested under those constitutional instruments and those instruments provided for a government and an opposition. Of course, the PPP/C has to its credit the fact that it, together with other political parties and other citizens, created a constitutional mechanism for our Constitution to be reviewed from time to time. But, pending those reviews, pending any possible changes, I think each person in this House took an oath to observe and honour the tenets of the Constitution. And each one of us has our constitutional role to play. What I want to call for this afternoon, is for all concerned to play their constitutional role effectively and in the interest of the country. Putting Guyana first should not remain a slogan, or ought not to be a slogan. It should be a fact. If you care for the people, if you care for the country, if you want a better country and happier people, then we have to work for it.

Continued in Part II

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE CONVENTION CENTER
OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL LILIENDAAL **Part II**

6TH SITTING

2.00 PM

9 APRIL, 2003

Continued from Part I

Mr Speaker, I am convinced that, though the problems appear innumerable - possibly some would feel insurmountable - they can be easily overcome. If we put our shoulders to the wheel, I am sure we can conquer all the negatives and evils and find success and prosperity for all the people of Guyana.

I want to close on the high note of a call for unity at this time. As I said, I am speaking conventionally this afternoon. I want to call on all the people - let us get together, let us come together, let us follow the noble and ideal path of togetherness and, if we do, we will move this country forward wherein, not only the adults will benefit, but the children, and the children yet to come, will be able to live in a Guyana prosperous, a Guyana progressive, and a Guyana in which all of us can find peace. We must stand up against evil, we must stand up against wrong, we must stand up against threat, we must stand up against all that can have a negative impact on this country. Once we show that kind of nobility in our thoughts, our decisions and our actions, we would have been making an invaluable contribution at this time.

Mr Speaker, the Budget is a good one. I commend the Minister, and I ask that we all vote appropriately for it at the appropriate time. I wish Guyana all success in the future.

[Applause]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Honourable Members, this completes the general debate on the Budget. But, before we take the general suspension, I recommend that we consider and dispose of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply on the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2003 Estimates of Expenditure by the Committee of Supply. The Sub-Committee passed a Resolution on the matter. Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Schedule have been circulated. The Honourable Member, the Minister of Finance will kindly move the motion.

Also, we will begin consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2003. We will have to go into the Committee of Supply for this purpose.

IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman: Honourable Members, the Committee of Supply has allocated three days for the Estimates for 2003 and considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2003 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply. The Sub-Committee passed a resolution on the matter. Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Schedule have been circulated. Would the Honourable Minister of Finance kindly move the motion?

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, I move that the Committee of Supply agree with the Business Sub-Committee in its resolution.

Question that

the Committee of Supply agrees with the Business Sub-Committee in its resolution

Put and carried.

Honourable Members, the Committee of Supply has been allocated three

days for the consideration of the Estimates. Consideration will begin today and will be in accordance with the Resolution of the Sub-Committee.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I think that this is a good time to take the suspension. The sitting will resume in half of an hour and, upon its resumption, we will begin consideration of the Estimates.

SUSPENSION OF ASSEMBLY AT 17:34H

RESUMPTION OF ASSEMBLY AT 18:17H

The Speaker: The Sitting is resumed. Please, be seated.

Honourable Members, the Assembly will resolve itself into Committee of Supply to begin consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure For The Year 2003.

IN COMMITTEE

The Chairman: We will now proceed in accordance with the Sub-Committee's Resolution and Schedule. Will Members kindly get Volume 1?

Pages 30 and 31

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 1 - Head Office Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$998,013,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 1 - Head Office Administration - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme Office Administration - \$998,013,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 32 and 33

**AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 2 -
Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$111,305,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 2 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 2 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - \$111,305,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 36 and 37

**AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 4 -
Amerindian Development**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$87,636,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 4 - Amerindian Development - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 4 - Amerindian Development - \$87,636,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 38 and 39

**AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 5 -
Public Policy and Planning**

Question is proposed that the sum \$629,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 5 - Public Policy and Planning - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 5 - Public Policy and Planning - \$629,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 456 and 457

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$518,835,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President - \$518,835,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 80 and 81

AGENCY 09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS, Programme 1 - Public and Police Service Commissions

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,070,000 for Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commissions, Programme 1 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commissions, Programme 1 - \$33,070,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25002) PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,538,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25002) - Public Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25002) Public Service Commission - \$1,538,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 84 and 85

AGENCY 10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION, Programme 1 - Teaching Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$31,266,000 for Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 1 - Teaching Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 1 - Teaching Service Commission - \$31,266,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25008) - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,695,000 for Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25008) Teaching Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25008) - Teaching Service Commission - \$2,695,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 88 and 89

AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, Programme 1 - Elections Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$238,633,000 for Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 1 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 1 - Elections Commission - \$238,633,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25010) - GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,000,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25010) - Guyana Elections Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25010) - Guyana Elections Commission - \$6,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 276 and 277

AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, Programme 1 - Defence Headquarters

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,737,682,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 1 - Defence Headquarters - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 1 - Defence Headquarters - \$2,737,682,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 290 and 291

AGENCY 57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, Programme 1 - Ombudsman

Question is proposed that the sum of \$13,900,000 for Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 1 - Ombudsman - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 1 - Ombudsman - \$13,900,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN (Project Code 25005)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$180,000 for Division 505 - Office of the Ombudsman (Project Code 25005) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Office of the Ombudsman (Project Code 25009) - \$180,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 294 and 295

AGENCY 58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, Programme 1 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal

Question is proposed that the sum of \$20,030,000 for Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 1 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 1 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$20,030,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25009) - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,500,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25009) - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25009) - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$1,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 42 and 43

AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, Programme 1 - Prime Minister's Secretariat

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,748,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 1 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 1 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - \$39,748,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

That brings us to an end of the Prime Minister's Office.

Pages 148 and 149

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$669,457,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$669,547,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 150 and 151

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 2 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$201,935,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 2 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 2 - Public Works - \$201,935,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 152 and 153

AGENCY 31- MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 3 - Communications and Transport

Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,525,000 for the Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 3 - Communications and Transport - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 3 - Communications and Transport - \$35,525,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 474

DIVISION 517 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - AIR TRANSPORT REFORM PROGRAMME

Question is proposed that the sum of \$861,596,000 for Division 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air Transport Reform Programme - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air Transport Reform Programme - \$861,596,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 476

DIVISION 519 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - SEA DEFENCES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$553,500,000 for Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - \$553,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 477 and 478

DIVISION 520 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$556,800,000 for Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - \$556,800,000 - agreed to ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 509 and 510

DIVISION 548 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - BRIDGES/ROADS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,695,500,000 for Division 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges/Roads - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges/Roads - \$2,695,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, it seems as if there are no questions being asked in relation to the Estimates. The Standing Orders on Page 40 No. 65 (2) allows each Head to be put, I propose therefore that instead of going through each item under each Head that each Head be put. What you see below a Head are all the items and that is put normally for facilitating Members asking questions. I notice that Members are not asking questions. What I would recommend is that we put each Head, but that any Member who wishes to ask a question can ask

a question on any item under the Head and I will give adequate time before we move on to the next Head. Would that be to your satisfaction?

[Members reply in the affirmative]

Pages 72 and 73

AGENCY 07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE, Programme 1 - National Assembly

Question is proposed that the sum of \$233,285,000 for Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 1 - National Assembly - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 1 - National Assembly - \$233,285,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25003) - PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Question is proposed that the sum of \$14,000,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25003) - Parliament Building - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional agencies (Project Code 25003) - Parliament Building - \$14,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25011) - LAND TRANSPORT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,600,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25011) - Land Transport - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25011) - Land Transport - \$3,600,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 106 and 107

There is only one agency here.

AGENCY 15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, Programme 1 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,000 for Agency 15 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation, Programme 1 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 15 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation, Programme 1 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - \$1,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 512

DIVISION 550 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO- OPERATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,500,000 for Division 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - \$5,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 52 and 53

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$386,287,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$386,287,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 54 and 55

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 2 - Foreign Relations

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,042,075,000 for Agency 04, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 2 - Foreign Relations - \$1,042,075,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 56 and 57

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 3 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Question is proposed that the sum of \$72,159,000 for Agency 04, Programme 3 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 3 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - \$72,159,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 462

DIVISION 506 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$21,400,000 for Division 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - \$21,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 200 and 201

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 1 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$87,794,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 1 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$87,794,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 202 and 203

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 2 - Culture**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$138,702,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 2 - Culture - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 2 - Culture - \$138,702,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 204 and 205

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 3 - Youth**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,512,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 3 - Youth - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 3 - Youth - \$41,512,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 206 and 207

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 4 - Sports**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$64,480,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 4 - Sports - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 4 - Sports - \$64,480,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 208 and 209

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 5 - Youth, Entrepreneurial Skills Training**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$175,607,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 5 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 5 - Youth, Entrepreneurial Skills Training - \$175,607,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 500

DIVISION 541 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$53,500,000 for Division 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - \$53,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 158 and 159

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$271,929,000 for the Ministry of Education, Programme 1 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$271,929,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 160 and 161

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 2 - National Education Policy, Implementation and Supervision

Question is proposed that the sum of \$108,135,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 2 - National Education Policy, Implementation and Supervision - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 2 - National Education Policy, Implementation and Supervision - \$108,135,000 - agreed to and orders to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 162 and 163

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 3 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$713,996,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 3 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 3 - Ministry Administration - \$713,996,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 164 and 165

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 4 - Training and Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$420,995,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 4 - Training and Development - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 4 - Training and Development - \$420,995,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 166 and 167

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 5 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,646,840,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 5 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 5 - Education Delivery - \$2,646,840,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 502 and 503

DIVISION 543 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$526,077,000 for Division 543 - Ministry of Education - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 543 - Ministry of Education - \$526,077,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 504

DIVISION 544 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM PROJECT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$508,244,000 for Division 544 - Ministry of Education - Secondary School - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 544 - Ministry of Education - Secondary School - \$508,244,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 508

DIVISION 547 - GUYANA EDUCATION ACCESS PROJECT (Project Code 26001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$740,000,000 for Division 547 - Guyana Education Access Project - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 547 - Guyana Education Access Project - \$740,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 516

DIVISION 553 - BASIC EDUCATION ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (Project Code 12001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$372,974,000 for Division 553 - Basic Education Access and Management, Support Programme - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 553 - Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme - \$372,974,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 94 and 95

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$19,796,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 1 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$19,796,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 96 and 97

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,105,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 2 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$16,105,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 98 and 99

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 3 - Regional Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$71,677,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 3 - Regional Development - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 3 - Regional Development - \$71,677,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 486

DIVISION 527 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,125,405,000 for Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - \$1,125,405,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 300 and 301

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,208,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$39,208,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 304 and 305

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,177,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$81,177,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 306 and 307

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$236,334,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$236,334,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 308 and 309

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$107,502,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$107,502,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 490

DIVISION 531 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$79,250,000 for Division 531 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 531 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - \$79,250,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 314 and 315

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$61,525,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$61,525,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 316 and 317

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 2 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$101,057,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 2 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 2 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$101,057,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 318 and 319

AGENCY 72- REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$63,381,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$63,381,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 320 and 321

AGENCY 72 – REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$539,799,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$539,799,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 322 and 323

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$169,546,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$169,546,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates.

Page 491

DIVISION 532 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

Question is proposed that the sum of \$166,350,000 for Division 532 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 532 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - \$166,350,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 328 and 329

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$96,540,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$96,540,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 330 and 331

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$127,591,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 2 - \$12,591,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of

the Estimates.

Pages 332 and 333

AGENCY 73 – REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$49,892,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - Programme 3 - Public Works - \$49,892,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 334 and 335

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$790,590,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$790,590,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 336 and 337

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$334,164,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Pro-

gramme 5 - Health Services - \$334,164,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 492

DIVISION 533 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

Question is proposed that the sum of \$130,500,000 for Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - \$130,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 342 and 343

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$74,718,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$74,718,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 344 and 345

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,172,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$81,172,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 346 and 347

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$87,627,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$87,627,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 348 and 349

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,026,213,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 74 0 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$1,026,213,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 350 and 351

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$103,735,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 5 - Health Facilities - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$103,735,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 493

DIVISION 534 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,671,000 for Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica - \$81,671,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 356 and 357

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,205,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - Stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$30,205,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 358 and 359

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$58,842,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 2 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$58,842,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the

Estimates.

Pages 360 and 361

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$87,378,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$87,378,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 362 and 363

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$468,866,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$468,866,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 364 and 365

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

Question is proposed that the sum of \$107,958,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 5 - Health

Services - \$107,958,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Page 494

DIVISION 535 - REGION 5: MAHAICA BERBICE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$128,159,000 for Division 535 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 535 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice - \$128,159,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 370 and 371

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,356,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - Programme 1- \$41,356,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 372 and 373

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$182,277,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$182,277,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 374 and 375

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$63,562,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 3 - Public Works - 63,562,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 376 and 377

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$881,137,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$881,137,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 378 and 379

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$440,498,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 76 - Region 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$440,498,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates.

Page 495

DIVISION 536 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$171,250,000 for Division 536 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne - Stands part of the Estimates.

Division 536 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne - \$171,250,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 384 and 385

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,281,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - Programme 1 - \$56,281,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 388 and 389

AGENCY 77- REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$71,384,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$71,384,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the

Estimates.

Pages 390 and 391

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$270,622,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - Stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$270,622,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 392 and 393

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$117,792,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$117,792,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 496

DIVISION 537 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$59,400,000 for Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - stand part of the Estimates.

Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - \$59,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 398 and 399

**AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 1
- Regional Administration and Finance**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$23,785,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$23,785,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 400 and 401

**AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 2
- Public Works**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$36,694,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 2 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 2 - Public Works - \$36,694,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 402 and 403

**AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 3
- Education Delivery**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$90,354,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 3 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 3 - Education Delivery - \$90,354,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 404 and 405

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 4 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$46,945,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 4 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 4 - Health Services - \$46,945,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 497

DIVISION 538 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$63,100,000 for Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni - \$63,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 410 and 411

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,166,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$41,166,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 412 and 413

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,465,000 of Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Programme 2 - Agriculture, we have under Acct Code 131 - Fuel and Lubricants; and we also have under Acct Code 164 - Vehicle Spares and Service, but we do not have a vehicle. Could the Honourable Minister give us an explanation there please?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the vehicle in question is in Georgetown undergoing repairs and as soon as it is finished it will be returned to the Region for use.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$6,465,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 414 and 415

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$45,606,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$45,606,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 416 and 417

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER

ESSEQUIBO, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$213,514,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$213,514,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 418 and 419

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$82,871,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$82,871,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 498

DIVISION 539 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,300,000 for Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - stands part of the Estimates.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Hon Minister explain what land development will be done this year in the housing scheme in Culbert City?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, yes, land development preparation will be done in Culbert City for a housing Scheme and the

works that will be done are roads; the installation electricity supply and water.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman under Project Code 26003 Power Extension, could the Hon Minister explain where the solar systems will be installed?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, power extension will be done at Achiwuib, Kaikumbay and Upukari

Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - \$100,300,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 424 and 425

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$69,707,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$69,707,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 428 and 429

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$49,215,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$49,215,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 430 and 431

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$613,264,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery \$613,264,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 432 and 433

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$147,040,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$147,040,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 499

DIVISION 540 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/ UPPER BERBICE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,700,000 for Division 540 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 540 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - \$100,700,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 46 and 47

AGENCY 03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,945,117,000 for Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$4,945,117,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 48 and 49

AGENCY 03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, Programme 2 - Accountant General's Department

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,498,918,000 for Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 2 - Accountant General's Department - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 03 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 2 - Accountant General's Department - \$2,498,918,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 484 and 485

DIVISION 526 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$9,200,000,000 for Division 526 - Ministry of Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 526 - Ministry of Finance - \$9,200,000,000 - agreed to

and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 76 and 77

AGENCY 08 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL, Programme 1 - Office of the Auditor General

Question is proposed that the sum of \$139,038,000 for Agency 08 - Office of the Auditor General, Programme 1 - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 08 - Office of the Auditor General, Programme 1 - Office of the Auditor General - \$139,038,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, AUDITOR GENERAL - (Project Code 12001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$300,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 12001) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 12001) - \$300,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, AUDITOR GENERAL (Project Code 24001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,600,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 24001) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 24001) - \$3,600,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, AUDITOR GENERAL (Project Code 25001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,700,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 25001) - stands part of the Estimates

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 25001) - \$1,700,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, AUDITOR GENERAL (Project Code 44001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$0,000,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 44001) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General (Project Code 44001) - \$0,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 434 and 435

AGENCY 90 - PUBLIC DEBT, Programme 1 - Public Debt

Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,751,272,000 for Agency 80 - Public Debt, Programme 1 - Public Debt - stands part of the estimates.

Agency 80 - Public Debt, Programme 1 - Public Debt - \$8,751,272,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 212 and 213

AGENCY 45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER, Programme 1 - Housing and Water

Question is proposed that the sum of \$360,045,000 for Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 1 - Housing and Water - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 1 - Housing and Water - \$360,045,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 481

**DIVISION 523 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER
(Project Code 25002)**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,000,000 for Division 523 - Ministry of Housing and Water (Project Code 25002) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 523 - Ministry of Housing and Water (Project Code 25002) - \$1,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 482

DIVISION 524 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - Water Supply Improvement Project (Project Code 28001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$290,070,000 for Division 524 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement Project (Project Code 28001) - stands part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 524 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - Water supply Improvement Project (Project Code 28001) - \$290,070,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 489

DIVISION 530 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - HOUSING

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,155,500,000 for Division 530 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 530 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing - \$1,155,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 514 and 515

DIVISION 552 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - Guyana Water Incorporated

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,506,330,000 for Division 552 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 552 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated - \$1,506,330,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 116 and 117

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$132,149,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$132,149,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 118 and 119

**AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 2 -
Crops and Livestock Support Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$631,353,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 2 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 2 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - \$631,351,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 120 and 121

**AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 3 -
Fisheries**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$45,816,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 3 - Fisheries - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 3 - Fisheries - \$45,816,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 122 and 123

**AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 4 -
Hydrometeorological Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$85,809,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 4 - Hydrometeorological Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 4 - Hydrometeorological Services - \$85,809,000 - agreed to and or-

dered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 465 and 466

DIVISION 508 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$533,500,000 for Division 508 - Ministry of Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 508 - Ministry of Agriculture - \$533,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 467

DIVISION 509 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - Rural Support Project (Project Code 17001)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$468,986,000 for Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project (Project Code 17001) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project (Project Code 17001) - \$468,986,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 468

DIVISION 510 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - MMA III

Question is proposed that the sum of \$66,500,000 for Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III - \$66,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 469

DIVISION 512 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - ARTISANAL

FISHERY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,752,000 for Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 512 - Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery - \$2,752,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 248 and 249

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 1 - Secretariat Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$61,589,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 1 - Secretariat Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 1 - Secretariat Services - \$61,589,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 250 and 251

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 2 - Guyana Police Force

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,884,640,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 2 - Guyana Police Force - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 2 - Guyana Police Force - \$2,884,640,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 252 and 253

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 3 - Guyana Prison Service

Question is proposed that the sum of \$437,428,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Prison Service - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - \$437,428,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 254 and 255

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 4 - Police Complaints Authority

Question is proposed that the sum of \$11,862,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 4 - Police Complaints Authority - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 4 - Police Complaints Authority - \$11,862,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 256 and 257

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 5 - Guyana Fire Service

Question is proposed that the sum of \$251,078,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 5 - Guyana Fire Service - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 5 - Guyana Fire Service - \$251,078,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 258 and 259

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 7 - General Registrar's Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$40,780,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 7 - General Registrar's Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 7 - General Registrar's Office - \$40,780,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 463 and 464

DIVISION 507 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$467,261,000 for Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs - \$467,261,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 238 and 239

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$96,955,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$96,955,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 240 and 241

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 2 - Social Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,221,965,000 for Agency 48 -

Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services - \$1,221,965,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 242 and 243

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 3 - Labour Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,859,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 3 - Labour Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 3 - Labour Administration - \$100,859,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 505

DIVISION 545 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$17,200,000 for Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - \$17,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 506 and 507

DIVISION 546 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY - SIMAP

Wednesday 9 April 2003

Question is proposed that the sum of \$481,469,000 for Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP - \$481,469,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 264 and 265

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, Programme 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,118,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 1 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$8,118,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 266 and 267

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$24,112,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$24,112,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 268 and 269

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, Programme 3 -

Attorney General Chambers

Question is proposed that the sum of \$152,242,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 3 - Attorney General Chambers - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 3 - Attorney General Chambers - \$152,242,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 270 and 271

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, Programme 4 - Office of the State Solicitor

Question is proposed that the sum of \$9,865,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 4 - Office of the State Solicitor - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 4 - Office of the State Solicitor - \$9,865,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 272 and 273

AGENCY 52- MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, Programme 5 - Deeds Registry

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,266,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 5 - Deeds Registry - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 5 - Deeds Registry - \$30,266,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 471

DIVISION 514 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$91,060,000 for Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - \$91,060,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 280 and 281

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, Programme 1 - Supreme Court of Judicature

Question is proposed that the sum of \$304,616,000 for Agency 55, Programme 1 - Supreme Court of Judicature - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 1 - Supreme Court of Judicature - \$304,616,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 282 and 283

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, Programme 2 - Magistrates' Department

Question is proposed that the sum of \$178,657,000 for Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 2 - Magistrates' Department - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 2 - Magistrates Department - \$178,657,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 286 and 287

AGENCY 56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, Programme 1 - Public Prosecutions

Question is proposed that the sum of \$48,259,000 for Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions, Programme 1 - Public Prosecutions - \$48,259,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 461

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES (Project Code 25007)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,500,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25007) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25007) - \$2,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 102 and 103

AGENCY 14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY, Programme 1 - Public Service Management

Question proposed that the sum of \$128,033,000 for Agency 14 - Public Service Ministry, Programme 1 - Public Service Management - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 14 - Public Service Ministry, Programme 1 - Public Service Management - \$128,033,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 511

DIVISION 549 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$9,000,000 for Division 549 - Public Service Ministry - stands part of the Estimates

Division 549 - Public Service Ministry - \$9,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 138 and 139

AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, Programme 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$138,146,000 for Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 1 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$138,146,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 140 and 141

AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$31,019,000 for Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$31,019,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 142 and 143

AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, Programme 3 - Commerce, Industry and Consumers Affairs

Question is proposed that the sum of \$47,164,000 for Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 3 - Commerce, Industry and Consumers Affairs - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Programme 3 - Commerce, Industry and Consumers Affairs - \$47,164,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 488

DIVISION 529 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$72,000,000 for Division 529 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 529 - Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce - \$72,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 110 and 111

AGENCY 16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS, Programme 1 - Amerindian Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,000 for Agency 16 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Programme 1 - Amerindian Development - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 16 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Programme 1 - Amerindian Development - \$1,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 513

DIVISION 551 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$54,200,000 for Division 551 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 551 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs - \$54,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 216 and 217

AGENCY 46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION, Programme 1 - Public Hospital

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,879,135,000 for Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Programme 1 - Public Hospital - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Programme 1 - Public Hospital - \$1,879,135,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 222 and 223

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$523,972,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$523,972,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 224 and 225

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 2 - Disease Control

Question is proposed that the sum of \$478,536,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 2 - Disease Control - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 2 - Disease Control - \$478,536,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 226 and 227

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$257,966,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - \$257,966,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 228 and 229

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$591,766,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - \$591,766,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 230 and 231

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education

Question is proposed that the sum of \$185,586,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - \$185,586,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 232 and 233

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$129,955,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - \$129,955,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 234 and 235

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$104,499,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - \$104,499,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 473

DIVISION 516 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question is proposed that the sum \$673,244,000 for Division 516 - Ministry of Health - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 516 - Ministry of Health - \$673,244,000 - agreed to and

ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, this completes consideration by the Committee of Supply of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2003.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply considered the Estimate of Expenditure For The Year 2003, and approved of them as printed.

Question:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2003 of a total sum of **sixty-two billion, eight hundred and sixty-six million, nine hundred and two thousand dollars (\$62,866,902,000), excluding ten billion, eighty million, two hundred and thirty-one thousand dollars (\$10,080,231,000)** which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the schedule, and agrees that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS, NOS. 12 AND 46

Be it resolved:

That this National Assembly approves of the suspension of Standing Orders No. 12 (Order of Business) and No. 46 with respect to the publication of the Appropriation Bill) to allow the Appropriation Bill 2003 to be introduced in the Assembly at the same sitting at which and immediately after the Estimates of Expenditure for 2003 have been approved.

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, I wish to move that this National Assembly approves of the suspension of Standing Order No. 12 that is the Order of Business and No. 46 with respect to the publication of the Appropriation Bill 2003, to be introduced in the National Assembly at the same sitting at which, and immediately after the Estimates of Expenditure of 2003 have been approved. With your permission, I accordingly moved the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

BILL INTRODUCTION, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

APPROPRIATION BILL 2003 - Bill No. 1/2003

A Bill intituled, an Act to provide for the issue from the Consolidate Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the financial year ending 31 December 2003, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums to specified purposes in conformity with the Constitution.

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 171 of the Constitution, I signify that Cabinet has recommended the Appropriation Bill 2003 for consideration by the National Assembly and I now present the Bill to the Assembly and move that it be read the first time.

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried

Bill read the First Time.

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The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I move that the Appropriation Bill 2003 be read the second time.

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Bill read the Second Time.

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I move that the Appropriation Bill 2003 be read the third time and passed as printed.

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Bill read the third time and passed as printed.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, this brings us to the conclusion of our business for today. Before I take the motion to adjourn the Assembly, I would like to express my thanks to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and members of the Staff of the Parliament Office for the arrangements which have been made to ensure that our stay here for the past three days have been as comfortable as possible. I understand there was a slight hiccup this afternoon, but these things happen. I would like to thank the Press for their patience in dealing with us and I would like to thank all those who have worked very hard to make this occasion and this important event a success.

The Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, I wonder if you will allow me to thank you for presiding so ably? I move that the National Assembly stands adjourned to Monday, 14 April 2003 at 14.00h.

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The Speaker: Honourable Members, the Assembly is adjourned to Monday, 14 April 2003 at 14:00h.

Adjourned accordingly at 21:20H