

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2007
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari. N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent – on leave)

Members of the Government (42)

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)**

(ii) **The United Force (1)**

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),
Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications (Absent-on Leave performing the
functions of Office of the President)

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

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International
Cooperation (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Health

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

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

*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

***Non-elected Minister**

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Agriculture

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

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

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

The Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

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

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Mr. Albert Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

***Non-Elected Minister**

****Elected Member from the United Force**

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

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

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

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

***Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker performing duties of Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Mr. Dave D. Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

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

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No.7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

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

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

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

(ii) **Alliance For Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Ms Chantalle L. Smith, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Mrs. Lilawttie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2007.

(Circulated)

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2007 at the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 2nd February, 2007.

(Notice Paper No.106 (M24 Govt 18) published on 2007-01-31)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTION****BUDGET FOR 2007**

In accordance with Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007 of the total sum of \$90,298,537,000 excluding \$9,663,953,000) which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)

The motion was then proposed.

The Minister of Home Affairs informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Friday, 9th February, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.51p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 9th February, 2007.



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MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.

Acting Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.**

2nd February, 2007.

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

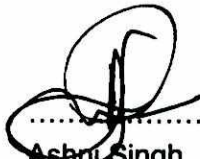
WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenue and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2007 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2007-02-02

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 2007, of a total sum of **ninety billion, two hundred and ninety-eight million, five hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$90,298,537,000)**, excluding **nine billion, six hundred and sixty-three million, nine hundred and fifty-three thousand dollars (\$9,663,953,000)** which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.



.....
Ashni Singh
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2007-02-02

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
01	<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT</p> <p>Programmes 011. Head Office Administration 1,250,269 012. Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) 212,404 014. Public Policy and Planning 190 Total 1,462,863 Office of the President</p>		741,707
02	<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER</p> <p>Programme 021. Prime Minister's Secretariat 95,432 Total 95,432 Office of the Prime Minister</p>		506,000
03	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF FINANCE</p> <p>Programmes 031. Ministry Administration 9,413,159 032. Government Accounting Administration 1,893,524 Total 11,306,683 Ministry of Finance</p>		9,372,483
04	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS</p> <p>Programmes 041. Ministry Administration 658,711 042. Foreign Relations 1,418,692 043. Foreign Trade and International Cooperation 85,734 Total 2,163,137 Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>		17,090
07	<p style="text-align: center;">PARLIAMENT OFFICE</p> <p>Programme 071. National Assembly 427,343 Total 427,343 Parliament Office</p>		33,000
08	<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL</p> <p>Auditor General</p>		12,800
09	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION</p> <p>Programme 091. Public and Police Service Commission 33,955 Total 33,955 Public and Police Service Commission</p>		963
10	<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION</p> <p>Programme 101. Teaching Service Commission 42,226 Total 42,226 Teaching Service Commission</p>		3,785
11	<p style="text-align: center;">ELECTIONS COMMISSION</p> <p>Programmes 111. Elections Commission 841,317 112. Elections Administration 517,241 Total 1,358,558 Guyana Elections Commission</p>		20,000
13	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Programme 131. Main Office 42,760 132. Ministry Administration 22,959 133. Regional Development 128,830 Total 194,549 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development</p>		1,897,533
14	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY</p> <p>Programme 141. Public Service Management 210,997 Total 210,997 Public Service Ministry</p>		14,500
	Subtotal	17,295,743	12,619,861

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
15	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation		990
16	MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS 161. Amerindian Development Total Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	184,624 184,624	150,190
21	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Programmes 211. Ministry Administration 212. Crops and Livestock Support Services 213. Fisheries 214. Hydrometeorological Services Total Ministry of Agriculture	542,344 746,987 71,798 120,812 1,481,941	3,696,100
23	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY Programmes 231. Main Office 232. Ministry Administration 233. Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs Total Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry	266,505 39,942 36,520 342,967	239,217
31	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS Programmes 311. Ministry Administration 312. Public Works 313. Communication and Transport Total Ministry of Public Works and Communications	206,059 256,514 38,905 501,478	7,417,100
41	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Programmes 411. Main Office 412. National Education Policy - Implementation & Supervision 413. Ministry Administration 414. Training and Development 415. Education Delivery Total Ministry of Education	318,994 92,029 801,226 513,176 3,271,213 4,996,638	1,748,750
44	MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS Programmes 441. Ministry Administration 442. Culture 443. Youth 444. Sports Total Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	114,987 307,651 265,534 93,371 781,543	401,700
45	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER Programme 451. Housing and Water Total Ministry of Housing and Water	485,645 485,645	4,095,840
6	GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION Programme 461. Public Hospital Total Georgetown Public Hospital	2,427,145 2,427,145	35,000
	Subtotal	11,201,981	17,784,887

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
47	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF HEALTH</p> <p>Programmes</p> 471. Ministry Administration 472. Diseases Control 473. Primary Health Care Services 474. Regional and Clinical Services 475. Health Sciences Education 476. Standards and Technical Services 477. Rehabilitation Services Total Ministry of Health	496,317 389,221 278,646 961,851 260,750 160,411 119,683 2,666,879	2,549,020
48	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY</p> <p>Programmes</p> 481. Ministry Administration 482. Social Services 483. Labour Administration Total Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security	108,385 2,287,832 112,732 2,508,949	962,005
51	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS</p> <p>Programmes</p> 511. Secretariat Services 512. Guyana Police Force 513. Guyana Prison Service 514. Police Complaints Authority 515. Guyana Fire Service 516. General Register Office Total Ministry of Home Affairs	121,588 3,601,106 663,260 4,343 341,029 62,447 4,793,773	793,800
52	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS</p> <p>Programmes</p> 521. Main Office 522. Ministry Administration 523. Attorney General's Chambers 524. Office of the State Solicitor 525. Deeds Registry Total Ministry of Legal Affairs	11,662 28,962 56,340 8,063 38,110 143,137	161,500
53	<p style="text-align: center;">GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE</p> <p>Programme</p> 531. Defence Headquarters Total Guyana Defence Force	3,523,368 3,523,368	160,600
55	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPREME COURT</p> <p>Programmes</p> 551. Supreme Court of Judicature 552. Magistrates' Department Total Supreme Court	221,902 196,037 417,939	59,800
56	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS</p> <p>Programme</p> 561. Public Prosecutions Total Public Prosecutions	53,304 53,304	2,080
57	<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN</p> <p>Programme</p> 571. Ombudsman Total Office of the Ombudsman	4,426 4,426	580
58	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL</p> <p>Programme</p> 581. Public Service Appellate Tribunal Total Public Service Appellate Tribunal	7,258 7,258	2,100
	Subtotal	14,119,033	4,691,485

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
71	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI</p> <p>Programmes</p> 711. Regional Administration and Finance 712. Public Works 713. Education Delivery 714. Health Services Total Region 1: Barima/Waini	 54,725 112,860 406,364 124,024 697,973	 133,000
72	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM</p> <p>Programmes</p> 721. Regional Administration and Finance 722. Agriculture 723. Public Works 724. Education Delivery 725. Health Services Total Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam	 76,872 142,361 70,447 633,374 211,483 1,134,537	 232,000
73	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA</p> <p>Programmes</p> 731. Regional Administration and Finance 732. Agriculture 733. Public Works 734. Education Delivery 735. Health Services Total Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	 102,977 143,213 68,916 1,024,080 365,144 1,704,330	 183,000
74	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA</p> <p>Programmes</p> 741. Regional Administration and Finance 742. Agriculture 743. Public Works 744. Education Delivery 745. Health Services Total Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica	 89,720 106,528 129,038 1,304,285 136,801 1,766,372	 130,300
75	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE</p> <p>Programmes</p> 751. Regional Administration 752. Agriculture 753. Public Works 754. Education Delivery 755 Health Services Total Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice	 37,212 66,286 91,371 627,361 128,634 950,864	 179,800
76	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE</p> <p>Programmes</p> 761. Regional Administration and Finance 762. Agriculture 763. Public Works 764. Education Delivery 765. Health Services Total Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne	 54,612 226,673 83,195 1,201,917 515,459 2,081,856	 243,000
77	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI</p> <p>Programmes</p> 771. Regional Administration and Finance 772. Public Works 773. Education Delivery 774. Health Services Total Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni	 70,793 86,214 374,784 165,801 697,592	 90,000
	Subtotal	9,033,524	1,191,100

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
78	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI</p> <p>Programmes</p> <p>781. Regional Administration and Finance</p> <p>782. Public Works</p> <p>783. Education Delivery</p> <p>784. Health Services</p> <p>Total</p> <p>Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni</p>	<p>28,751</p> <p>56,322</p> <p>153,420</p> <p>64,380</p> <p>302,873</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>93,700</p>
79	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO</p> <p>Programmes</p> <p>791. Regional Administration and Finance</p> <p>792. Agriculture</p> <p>793. Public Works</p> <p>794. Education Delivery</p> <p>795. Health Services</p> <p>Total</p> <p>Region 9: Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo</p>	<p>56,787</p> <p>8,692</p> <p>50,587</p> <p>329,912</p> <p>120,961</p> <p>566,939</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>177,359</p>
80	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE</p> <p>Programmes</p> <p>801. Regional Administration and Finance</p> <p>802. Public Works</p> <p>803. Education Delivery</p> <p>804. Health Services</p> <p></p> <p>Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Subtotal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GRAND TOTAL \$</p>	<p>74,251</p> <p>64,440</p> <p>808,321</p> <p>133,932</p> <p>1,080,944</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>1,950,756</p> <p>53,601,037</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>410,167</p> <p>36,697,500</p>