

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> 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, 9<sup>TH</sup> 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

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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

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

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**

3.

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) (Absent – on leave)

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)

\*\*\*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.

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. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

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\*\*\*Non-elected Member

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.

5.

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

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.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

1. **INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DENISE McINTYRE**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Health**

Will the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly whether he intends to hold an inquiry into the death of Denise McIntyre, aged 40 years, who died on or around 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 at the Public Hospital Corporation after giving birth to a still born baby?

**(Notice Paper No. 45 (Q30 Opp30) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

The Ministry of Health is fully cognizant of the issue of maternal mortality and morbidity. With technical assistance from the PAHO/WHO, the ministry of Health completed a Situational Analysis of Maternity and Neonatal Services at the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Public Hospitals.

6.

Among the recommendations made was the establishment of a Maternal Mortality Committee. Such a Committee now exists at both the New Amsterdam and Georgetown Public Hospitals. Similar Committees are to be established at all hospitals in Guyana.

All maternal deaths are, therefore subjected to review by the maternal Mortality Committee, as a matter of policy. The hospital where the death occurs must initiate an investigation of a maternal death within 24 hours. The Report must be submitted to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health. The CMO determines whether an outside investigation is necessary. Should the CMO decide that an outside investigation is necessary, he will appoint a Committee consisting of relevant personnel.

The death of Ms McIntyre is currently under review by the Maternal Mortality Committee of the GPHC and a Report has not yet been submitted.

After the Director's office would have studied the Report, his recommendation would be made and submitted to the CMO, Ministry of Health. The CMO will determine if there should be any further action taken.

## 2. CONTRACT OF TECHNICAL ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

**Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs**

(i) Could the Hon. Minister say what is the duration of the contract of the Peruvian National who was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister of Home Affairs on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2006?

(ii) What is the monthly salary and other allowances of this Technical Adviser?

**(Notice Paper No. 46 (Q31 Opp31) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the Honourable Member that the duration of the contract is for twelve (12) months.
  
- (ii) Contract sum for the services provided by the Consultant is US\$96,000.00.

3. **PRIVATIZATION OF THE WAUNA OIL PALM ESTATE**

**Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

Could the Hon. Minister update the National Assembly on the status of the privatization of the Wauna Oil Palm Estate in Region No. 1?

**(Notice Paper No. 47 (Q32 Opp32) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

Please note that there have been several attempts made to privatize the WOPE since 1996, as follows:

1. It was originally advertised in 1996 at which time two proposals were received, one being rejected (Kurupukari Inc.) and the other not pursued (J. Badal).
  
2. In 1998, the WOPE was re-advertised and one proposal received from B. Matthews in association with Prime group. It was recommended to Cabinet to accept the proposal. However the deal fell through because of internal differences within the partnership.

3. In 2000, a proposal was received from C. Correia for WOPE. Following approval from the Privatisation Board, direct negotiations with this group started and spanned over a year. At the end of 2001, the structure of a deal was roughly defined but negotiations on certain issues were protracted. There was also concern about the ability of the group to invest the intended resources and keep the estate operational.
4. In October, 2001, a proposal was received from H. Tiwari (successor to Yearwood in the San Juan Oil Palm Estate). This proposal was similar to Correia if not slightly more attractive in respect of price.
5. In 2002, the Privatisation Board recommended that a tender be pursued in light of competing proposals from Correia and Tiwari but that the basic structure discussed with Correia be maintained except for modifications.
6. Upon the re-advertising of the estate in 2003, three bids were received and DIDCO was selected by Cabinet as the Preferred Investor. However, despite many attempts to finalise the privatization, DIDCO refused to complete the transaction since it wanted to clear up outstanding government issues with other projects before commencing.
7. Since 2006, DIDCO has refused to buy Palm Oil and subsequently NEOCOL has no market for its produce. Therefore NICIL had to apply the proceeds from the sale of its other assets to finance the operations of NEOCOL. NEOCOL has been operating at a net loss since 1998.
8. In June, 2006, AST through IAST announced its plans to produce biodiesel from Palm Oil produced at the estate. Since then, IAST has stationed persons at the estate to produce the biodiesel. In October, 2006, AST/IAST was offered to take over the day to day costs of the estate. AST is owned by Mr. Dwarka Persaud and based in Ontario, Canada. IAST has indicated that it has entered into a management contract with AST for the management and



operation of the biodiesel project to be located at WOPE. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IAST and AST in June, 2006. further to this, IAST indicated that AST purchased the biodiesel plant that was previously located at the IAST compound at Turkeyen. This was transported to Wauna, with the costs being paid by AST on a cost recovery basis plus a 10% profit to IAST.

9. AST submitted a business plan for consideration on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. This covers the production and sale of biodiesel from Palm Oil produced utilizing the existing acreage of Oil Palm and the operating Oil Mill. Current production capacity of the existing estate is some 200 – 300 drums of biodiesel. Additionally, the project aims to cultivate an additional 1000 Ha of Oil Palm, to increase biodiesel production capacity. The new operation also intends to utilize staff in the cultivation of cash crops between the Palm Oil trees, to increase staff efficiency and avoid redundancy and layoffs. The market for biodiesel is initially intended to be the regional administration of Region No. 1. AST has negotiated a supply and purchase agreement with Region No. 1 for the purchase of 200 drums of biodiesel per month to fulfill the requirements of the Region. Later as production increases the project will seek other buyers in the local area, including GWI with an expansion plan to introduce the product to the mining regions of Port Kaituma, Arakaka and Matthew's Ridge. AST proposes to invest US\$4M over 10 years.

4. **ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO PRIVATE CANE FARMERS**

**Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether Government assists private cane farmers in plowing their fields?
- (ii) If yes, could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly as to the criteria used by the Government in giving this assistance?

**(Notice Paper No. 48 (Q33 Opp33) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answers:**

As spelt out in the National Cane Farming Committee Act, Rule 4(5), "If it is necessary, and providing the Manufacturer has equipment available and not in use elsewhere, the Manufacturer may at the Farmer's request undertake cultivation work on behalf of the Farmer, and charge the Farmer for so doing at an agreed rate."

It has been the practice for the Estates to do land preparation work for Farmers once they have covered their own tillage and planting needs and this is the only criteria. However, if work is done, the rate charged is (similar to that for work done for outside parties) based upon 150% of the machine charge out rate. This covers the cost of the operator as well as all of the other benefits and employment costs that come with the operator (API, WPI, Holiday with Pay etc.)

Normally farmers are required to pay for all land preparation works prior to the commencement of such works, unless special consideration is given for deduction (before final payment) by the Estate Administration. We take into account their ability to pay and are flexible with payment arrangements. At the end of the day, we can pay the farmers from the proceeds of sale, so we can always reclaim the money. However, we always do it by negotiation and agreement with the farmer.

I hereunder give you some data on land preparation for pervious years (all figures are Ha):

Estate	2005	2006		
	Land Preparation	Land Preparation	Partial Tillage	Drain Digging
Skeldon	Nil	34.0	58.7	21.3
Albion	Nil	Nil		
Rose Hall	50.9	21.5		
Enmore	Nil	Nil		
LBI	Nil	Nil		
Wales	Nil	Nil		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>21.3</b>

In addition, the respective Estate would have provided the farmers seed canes for replanting all tilled lands even lands tilled by the farmers. Other materials, such as low grade rock phosphate lime, fertilizers and in some instances rat bait would be supplied based on Farmers' request.

Farmers would have the use of Estate's cane punts, dams and waterways. Water supply and cane transport services would also be provided.

Soil sampling for LGRP requirement and maturity sampling of canes would also be done for Farmers as well as advice on any or all agronomic practices.

Recently, LBI had provided Bell Canes Loaders to assist farmers get off their crop on time.

5. **COMPLETION OF WELLS AT LA GRANGE AND METEN-MEER-ZORG**

**Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water**

Could the Hon. Minister say when the wells at La Grange and Meten-Meer-Zorg located on the West Coast of Demerara, Region No. 3 would be completed?

**(Notice Paper No. 49 (Q34 Opp34) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

The Wells at La Grange and Meten-Meer-Zorg are now scheduled for completion by June 30, 2007.

6. **RATES OWED BY THE GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT INC. TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF GEORGETOWN**

**Member Asking:** Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister say what arrangements were made for the payment of rates owed by the Guyana Power and Light Inc. to the Mayor and City Council of Georgetown prior to the privatization of the Guyana Electricity Corporation?

**(Notice Paper No. 50 (Q35 Opp35) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

As far as I am aware whatever rates were owed by GEC to the Georgetown City Council prior to 1999 were not transferred to GPL. A dispute has arisen over this matter between the Council and the GPL. It is my understanding that this matter is engaging the attention of the parties concerned with a view to arriving at an amicable solution.

7. **ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISTS FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007**

**Member Asking:** Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Could the Hon. Minister say what arrangements are being made for craftsmen and artists to display their creations during Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007?

**(Notice Paper No. 51 (Q36 Opp36) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

Small vendors of Arts and Crafts wishing to sell their products at Cricket World Cup venues and using the logo of Cricket World Cup must first obtain a concession for License and Merchandising from Cricket World Cup Inc.

As far as I am aware, Ms Elizabeth Hughes of the Calabash Gift Shop is the official license holder for Arts and Crafts locally with Cricket World Cup 2007.

During the month of March and April, 2007, several organizations have planned events where Art and Craft would be on sales, these include:

1. Guyana Tourism Authority in collaboration with Go-Invest would be hosting a Gift and Craft show at the Sophia Exhibition Centre from 30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007.
2. The Mayor and City Council will be coordinating an International Village at Independence Park from the end of March to mid April, 2007.
3. The National Gallery of Arts, at Castellani House will have a viewing of the art collection.
4. The Women's Craft Association of Santa Mission will be coordinating an exhibition and sale, the dates and places to be confirmed.

8. **ROYALTIES COLLECTED BY THE GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES COMMISSION (GGMC)**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Prime Minister**

- (i) Could the Hon. Prime Minister say what is the total amount of royalty collected by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) in 2005 and 2006 from Region No. 7?
  - (a) How much royalty was collected from Brazilians?
  - (b) How much royalty was collected from Guyanese?
- (ii) What percentage of royalties from the miners in Region No. 7 for 2006 would be used to develop Region No. 7 in 2007?

**(Notice Paper No. 52 (Q37 Opp37) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The GGMC does not collect data in terms of Regions. The GGMC continues to use its traditional geographic demarcation of Mining Districts which demarcation existed long before the division of Guyana into Regions. Mining District 3 Mazaruni together with Mining District 4, Cuyuni, include and exceed Region No. 7. The Royalties for both gold and diamonds and for both Regions 3 and 4 are tabled below for both 2005 and 2006:

	2006	2006	2005	2005
	Gold	Diamonds	Gold	Diamonds
Mining District 3	237,871,398	230,613,413	141,039,971	143,271,280
Mining District 4	115,472,365	11,628,228	114,031,413	7,715,858

- (a)(b) The GGMC does not record nationality of persons/companies making declarations, hence no information is available from the GGMC on Royalties collected from Brazilians and Royalties collected from Guyanese. It may be relevant to note that there are persons/companies of other nationalities prospecting and mining in Guyana.
- (ii) Neither the GGMC nor the Government has a policy or a practice of applying a percentage of royalties collected in any Region to development projects in that Region. It may be relevant to note that in our total national budget, Royalties from gold and diamonds all across Guyana total about G41,7 billion compared with a total expenditure in the order of G4100 billion: much more is expended than is received in Royalties from gold and diamonds.

9. **BRAZILIAN MINERS WORKING IN REGION NO. 7**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Prime Minister**

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say how many Brazilian miners are presently working in Region No. 7?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide a list of these miners who have received permission from GGMC or the Office of the Prime Minister?  
**(Notice Paper No. 53 (Q38 Opp38) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The GGMC does not keep a record of Brazilians and other non-nationals working in mining in Region No. 7 or any other part of Guyana.

The GGMC has informed me that during 2006 they recommended 367 non-nationals to the Ministry of Home Affairs to receive work permits. Other work permits for non-nationals may have gone directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- (ii) Neither the GGMC nor the Prime Minister give permission for non-nationals to stay on or work in Guyana. This is a function of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

10. **POTABLE WATER FOR RESIDENTS OF BARNWELL NORTH MOCHA ARCADIA**

**Member Asking: Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water**

Will the Hon. Minister say when will the residents of Barnwell North Mocha Arcadia, East Bank Demerara receive potable water from the Guyana Water Authority (GWI) facility at Mocha Arcadia?

**(Notice Paper No. 54 (Q39 Opp39) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

Guyana Water Inc. has scheduled the completion of the installation of six (6) Stand Pipes in the Barnwell area for April 30, 2007.

11. **NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN NEW AMSTERDAM**

**Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Health**

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister say what provisions are being made to improve the deplorable conditions of the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister say what is the total number of patients housed in the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam?
- (iii) Can the Hon. Minister say what is the authorized strength for nurses at the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam. Can the Minister also say how many trained Psychiatric nurses are currently employed by the Ministry at that institution?

**(Notice Paper No. 55 (Q40 Opp40) published on 2007-01-18)**



**Answers:**

- (i) The Hospital is now a priority hospital for reconstruction. The Government of Guyana is presently engaged in mobilizing funds for the reconstruction of the Hospital.

For many decades, the National Psychiatric Hospital was neglected. It had become a national disgrace by 1990. In spite of rehabilitation work that was done and other improvements and the construction of several new chalets to house the persons living there, the conditions have remained unacceptable.

Several of the old buildings are presently being demolished for safety reasons and also in preparation for new construction.

Starting in January, a team has been working to clean, slash and weed around the buildings in order to improve the environmental aspect in the compound.

A contract for the debugging of all of the residential buildings has been concluded and work has started.

- (ii) The number of persons housed at the National Psychiatric Hospital is 155. Of this number, 100 persons have been determined as persons who could live at home.

- (iii)

	Matron	Sen. Dept. Head	Jnr. Dept. Head	Psy. Nurse	Staff Nurse	Nursing Assistant	Nurse Aid
Establishment	1	1	2	5	18	30	40
Present	1	1	0	1	1	11	33

12. **ROYALTIES FROM THE FORESTRY SECTOR**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

What percentage of royalties will be retrieved by Region No. 7 from the Forestry Sector?

**(Notice Paper No. 56 (Q41 Opp41) published on 2007-01-18)**

**Answer:**

Total Royalties paid to the forest sector for 2006, from Region No. 7 is G\$84,796,139. The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has carried out extensive training and extension activities in areas in Region No. 7: Bartica, Riversview, Batavia and Wineperu. The GFC also conducts extensive monitoring of these concessions to ensure compliance with GFC's guidelines.

The estimated cost for monitoring, outreach and extension activities for Region No. 7 for 2006, is approximately G\$50,000,000. GFC's monitoring cost includes staff cost.

The GFC also contributes to the Consolidated Fund which the Government uses to provide services to all Administrative Regions.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET SPEECH 2007 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2007**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007.

**(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2007-02-02)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication

Mr. Aubrey Norton

While the Minister of Labour was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Labour continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

While the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce was speaking to the motion the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 8.07 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Desmond Fernandes

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister in the Ministry of Education

Mr. Mohamed Khan

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO.10(1)**

At 10.00 p.m., the Prime Minister moved a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1) for the Assembly to continue the debate on the motion uninterrupted until 11.00 p.m.

Mr. Mohamed Khan continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Dr. John Austin

and

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO.10(1)**

At 10.58 p.m., the Prime Minister moved a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1) for the Assembly to continue the debate on the motion uninterrupted until 11.15 p.m.

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali continued and concluded his speech.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11.07 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

  
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**MRS. CLARISSA RIEHL, M.P.,  
Acting Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**9<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.**