

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 74TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2009
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

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

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)**

(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. 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 Foreign Affairs

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

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

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***Non-elected Minister**

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. Charles R. Ramson, 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. B. H. Robeson 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.D., 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

*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

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

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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

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

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)

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

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

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

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

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 in the Ministry of Housing and Water

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

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

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

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 of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

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*****Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary**

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Ernest Barnabas 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. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

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

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

OFFICERS (2)

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

**Resignation of Mr. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., Former Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs**

The Speaker informed Members of the Assembly that Mr. Doodnauth Singh, former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs had resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from 1st February, 2009 and that Mr. Singh was a non-elected Member of the National Assembly.

The Speaker stated that he was informed that Mr. Charles Rishiram Ramsom, S.C., who was a former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, was re-appointed Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and that before Mr. Ramsom could have taken part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he was required to make and subscribe the oath before the Assembly as required by Article 167 of the Constitution.

As Mr. Ramsom was present, he made and subscribed the oath which was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Congratulation to Member

On behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker congratulated Mr. Charles Rishiram Ramsom on his re-appointment as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues of Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2009.

(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, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, 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 2009 at the sitting of the Assembly on Monday, 9th February, 2009.

(Notice Paper No. 371 (M88 Govt54) published on 2009-02-02)

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2009

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 2009.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009 of the total sum of \$118,483,761,000 excluding \$10,398,768,000 which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)


The Minister of Finance read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Monday, 16th February, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.50 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 16th February, 2009.


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HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

9th February, 2009.

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 2009 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2009-02-09

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009, of a total sum of **one hundred and eighteen billion, four hundred and eighty-three million, seven hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars (\$118,483,761,000)**, excluding **ten billion, three hundred and ninety-eight million, seven hundred and sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$10,398,768,000)** 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.



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Ashni Singh
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2009-02-09

SCHEDULE

G\$'000

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
01-19	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTOR		
01	OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT		
	Programmes		
	011. Head Office Administration	1,519,856	435,990
	012. Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)	278,824	0
	014. Public Policy and Planning	4	0
	Total	1,798,684	435,990
02	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER		
	Programme		
	021. Prime Minister's Secretariat	135,684	4,593,985
	Total	135,684	4,593,985
03	MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
	Programmes		
	031. Ministry Administration	11,085,500	6,993,930
	032. Government Accounting Administration	2,312,898	2,500
	Total	13,398,398	6,996,430
04	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS		
	Programmes		
	041. Ministry Administration	921,485	19,000
	042. Foreign Relations	1,553,518	19,800
	043. Foreign Trade and International Cooperation	104,181	0
	Total	2,579,184	38,800
07	PARLIAMENT OFFICE		
	Programme		
	071. National Assembly	543,726	69,000
	Total	543,726	69,000
09	PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION		
	Programme		
	091. Public and Police Service Commission	37,774	2,000
	Total	37,774	2,000
10	TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION		
	Programme		
	101. Teaching Service Commission	52,004	3,000
	Total	52,004	3,000
11	ELECTIONS COMMISSION		
	Programmes		
	111. Elections Commission	1,090,608	20,000
	112. Elections Administration	1,351,964	0
	Total	2,442,572	20,000
13	MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
	Programme		
	131. Main Office	50,225	0
	132. Ministry Administration	32,407	1,500
	133. Regional Development	138,313	1,382,900
	Total	220,945	1,384,400
	Subtotal	21,208,971	13,543,605

SCHEDULE

GS'000

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
14	PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY Programme 141. Public Service Management Total	 312,943 312,943	 7,880 7,880
15	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation		3,000
16	MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS 161. Amerindian Development Total	 237,882 237,882	 250,553 250,553
20 - 49	ECONOMIC SERVICES SECTOR		
21	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Programmes 211. Ministry Administration 212. Crops and Livestock Support Services 213. Fisheries 214. Hydrometeorological Services Total	 1,168,177 942,277 76,872 177,665 2,364,991	 4,152,585 2,182,700 2,300 70,000 6,407,585
23	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY Programmes 231. Main Office 232. Ministry Administration 233. Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs Total	 373,875 53,768 44,588 472,231	 28,000 21,000 1,001,500 1,050,500
30 - 49	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR		
31	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS Programmes 311. Ministry Administration 312. Public Works 313. Communication and Transport Total	 213,756 574,263 50,652 838,671	 16,500 8,434,621 185,000 8,636,121
40 - 49	SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR		
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	 385,407 122,513 1,241,364 828,217 4,047,611 6,625,112	 6,650 800 12,500 181,300 2,122,985 2,324,235
44	MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS Programmes 441. Ministry Administration 442. Culture 443. Youth 444. Sports Total	 149,770 367,487 341,453 150,945 1,009,655	 11,200 30,045 22,500 270,000 333,745
	Subtotal	11,861,485	19,013,619

SCHEDULE

G\$'000

AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
45	<p align="center">MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER</p> Programme 451. Housing and Water Total	 431,997 431,997	 5,854,635 5,854,635
46	<p align="center">GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION</p> Programme 461. Public Hospital Total	 3,133,765 3,133,765	 60,600 60,600
47	<p align="center">MINISTRY OF HEALTH</p> Programmes 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	 574,173 426,292 356,227 1,724,933 301,470 208,578 161,978 3,753,651	 18,500 649,200 220,500 1,742,565 5,500 2,300 5,500 2,644,065
48	<p align="center">MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY</p> Programmes 481. Ministry Administration 482. Social Services 483. Labour Administration Total	 133,889 4,591,290 208,452 4,933,631	 630,000 17,300 9,500 656,800
50 - 69	PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR		
51	<p align="center">MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS</p> Programmes 511. Secretariat Services 512. Guyana Police Force 513. Guyana Prison Service 514. Police Complaints Authority 515. Guyana Fire Service 516. General Register Office Total	 174,309 4,559,569 835,214 7,799 439,790 90,601 6,107,282	 651,869 472,000 127,900 1,200 386,700 4,500 1,644,169
52	<p align="center">MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS</p> Programmes 521. Main Office 522. Ministry Administration 523. Attorney General's Chambers 524. Office of the State Solicitor 525. Deeds Registry Total	 12,070 41,806 76,867 12,361 54,437 197,541	 519,216 5,000 500 3,600 13,500 541,816
53	<p align="center">GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE</p> Programme 531. Defence Headquarters Total	 5,320,822 5,320,822	 562,000 562,000
55	<p align="center">SUPREME COURT</p> Programmes 551. Supreme Court of Judicature 552. Magistrates' Department Total	 309,577 304,728 614,305	 50,000 66,000 116,000
	Subtotal	24,492,994	12,080,085

GS'000	SCHEDULE	GS'000	
AGENCY NUMBER IN ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
56	PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS Programme 561. Public Prosecutions Total	58,965 58,965	5,500 5,500
57	OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Programme 571. Ombudsman Total	4,101 4,101	0 0
58	PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL Programme 581. Public Service Appellate Tribunal Total	6,806 6,806	3,500 3,500
70 - 69	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR		
71	REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI Programmes 711. Regional Administration and Finance 712. Public Works 713. Education Delivery 714. Health Services Total	72,820 152,509 518,614 181,207 925,150	20,100 50,258 51,000 32,600 153,958
72	REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM Programmes 721. Regional Administration and Finance 722. Agriculture 723. Public Works 724. Education Delivery 725. Health Services Total	93,105 165,488 87,095 844,730 328,344 1,518,762	4,600 121,275 86,500 25,000 31,000 268,375
73	REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA Programmes 731. Regional Administration and Finance 732. Agriculture 733. Public Works 734. Education Delivery 735. Health Services Total	118,033 206,802 78,924 1,234,403 435,314 2,073,476	14,000 47,420 77,000 42,250 37,000 217,670
74	REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA Programmes 741. Regional Administration and Finance 742. Agriculture 743. Public Works 744. Education Delivery 745. Health Services Total	96,485 142,804 152,263 1,674,526 210,519 2,276,597	10,100 25,000 48,000 39,500 28,000 150,600
75	REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE Programmes 751. Regional Administration 752. Agriculture 753. Public Works 754. Education Delivery 755 Health Services Total	46,295 86,889 112,919 744,166 191,276 1,181,545	3,200 48,682 77,500 36,450 41,500 207,332
	Subtotal	8,045,402	1,006,935