

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 4TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2012
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),
Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

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

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

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

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

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

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Education

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini),
Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

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

***Non-Elected Minister**

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3.

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

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

**Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Members of the Opposition (33)

(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

****Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Mr. Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

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

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

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

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkhan, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson M.P.

5.

(iii)Members of The Alliance For Change (7)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

OFFICERS

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 2.17 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

- (i) **“Thanks to Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

I would like to thank the Hon. Member Mrs. Deborah Backer for presiding over the Assembly for me in my absence at the last sitting whilst I was out of the country.

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(ii) **New Parking Arrangements**

Also, I would like to announce, administratively, that I have asked for, and the Clerk has been good enough to facilitate, some new parking arrangements. Some of you may have observed in the car park that there is specialized and reserved parking for the Leader of the Opposition, the Government Chief Whip, the Opposition Chief Whip and Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan.

Women and Gender Equality Commission

I would like to announce, as well, that the Women and Gender Equality Commission had requested and I had kindly consented to have an exhibition in honour of Women's History Month and the International Day of Women. That exhibition is ongoing and can be viewed at the corridor leading to the library.

As of a few minutes ago a forum appropriately entitled "A Celebration of Women in Parliament" was held, informally, at which female Members of Parliament and female members of staff were present along with members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission. We wish to congratulate all women who serve in the House, those who work here and those who are here either as members of the press or otherwise. I wish to single out Ms. Amna Ally who received an award from the Clerk of the Assembly for being the longest serving female Member of Parliament at present and my own confidential secretary, Ms. Jaitun Haniff, who is the longest serving female member of staff.

Lastly, I had also requested of the Clerk that we commence another initiative – that of engaging Former Members of Parliament to be our guests at sittings. We had issued two invitations; one to Mr. Feroze Mohamed and another to Mr. Oscar Clarke, General Secretary of the People's National Congress. I am happy to see Mr. Clarke here. Welcome, Mr. Clarke, as our guest this afternoon. I hope that we can continue these and other initiatives in the period ahead. The Clerk has handed me an apology from Mr. Mohamed who, unfortunately, could not be here. We hope that he will be able to grace us with his presence on another occasion."

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

The Police Complaints Authority Annual Report for the year 2010.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Annual Report of the Guyana National Printers Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(ii) The Guyana National Insurance Scheme Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 2010.

(Circulated)

(iii) The Annual Report of the Linden Electricity Company Incorporated for the year ended 31st December, 2005.

(Circulated)

(iv) The Annual Report of the Linden Electricity Company Incorporated for the year ended 31st December, 2006.

(Circulated)

(v) The Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana National Shipping Corporation Ltd., for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(vi) The Annual Report of the Guyana National Newspapers Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2007.

(Circulated)

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- (vii) The Annual Report of the Guyana National Newspapers Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

(Circulated)

- (viii) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd., for the year ended 31st December, 2002.

(Circulated)

- (ix) The Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd., for the year ended 31st December, 2003.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

\$90 Million Allocation to Feed Ranks In-lying For the 28th November, 2011 General and Regional Elections

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following questions:

- (i) Would the Minister kindly inform this House whether the documents in support of the disbursement of monies for the feeding of ranks in-lying for the 28th November, 2011, General and Regional Elections to all divisions have been received and accounted for by the Finance Department of the Guyana Police Force?
- (ii) Would you further inform this House of the total sum of monies accounted for by “F” Division and who signed the receiving order and the date it was signed? Of the \$90 million, if any of the monies were allocated to the Police Central Welfare Fund?
- (iii) What is the relationship between the Police Central Welfare Fund and providing meals and transportation for the ranks in-lying for the General and Regional Elections of 2011 is?

9.

Audit of the Police Co-operative Consumers Association

Would the Minister inform this House of the year of the last audit of the Police Co-op Consumers Association?

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

Mrs. Volda Lawrence asked the Minister of Home Affairs supplementary Questions.

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. PROGRAMME FOR THE REHABILITATION OF JUVENILES

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly whether there is a programme for the rehabilitation of juveniles in particular at the Paramakatoi Secondary School where twenty three pupils were expelled due to their alleged use of marijuana?

(Notice Paper No. 1 (Q 1 Opp 1) published on 2012-02-08)

Answer:

“Yes, there is a programme for the rehabilitation of juveniles, but the Honourable Minister of Education is not the most appropriate Minister to articulate the details thereof as said programme does not fall under her gazette responsibilities/jurisdiction. Further the question seeks to assert information that is inaccurate. Twenty three pupils were not expelled from the Paramakatoi Secondary School. Three students were expelled from the school based on findings by professionals and in an effort to serve in the best interest of all the students at the school and the dormitory.”

2. PARAMAKATOI SECONDARY SCHOOL

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister of Education explain to this National Assembly whether one Warden and one Matron are adequate to shepherd four hundred children at the Paramakatoi Secondary School dormitory?
- (ii) Could the Honourable Minister indicate whether the Ministry of Education has a plan to detail adequate security at the dormitory for the Paramakatoi Secondary School and if so how soon?

(Notice Paper No. 2 (Q 2 Opp 2) published on 2012-02-08)

Answer:

- (i) “Again, this question seeks to assert information that is inaccurate. Four hundred children are not housed at the Paramakatoi Secondary School dormitory. The Honourable Minister urges the Honourable Member asking to determine facts before seeking to make assertions. The Honourable Minister, in a sincere effort to raise the standard and quality of the work of the National Assembly, remains accessible and available and indeed would be happy to provide the Member asking said factual information prior to the presentation of questions to this Honourable House so that the Honourable Member asking could be prevented from misleading the House and people of Guyana.

Advertisements for additional staff members have been placed but thus far no suitable individuals have applied.

- (ii) There is indeed such a plan in place. Efforts at recruitment are underway.”

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3. **UITVLUGT SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly how soon works are expected to be completed to make the Uitvlugt Secondary School habitable and conducive for the education of our Nation's children?

(Notice Paper No. 3 (Q 3 Opp 3) published on 2012-02-08)

Answer:

The Honourable Minister of Education is advised that, again, this question seeks to assert information that is inaccurate. The Headmistress as well as the Regional Education Officer and Regional Engineering Department have confirmed that on September 2, 2011 work was completed at the Uitvlugt Secondary School and that the school is habitable and conducive for the education of the children schooled thereat.

4. **TEACHER – INCENTIVE FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE**

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister of Education indicate whether there is a plan to increase emoluments for teachers as an incentive for improved performance? If so, how soon can teachers expect an increase and how much?

(Notice Paper No. 4 (Q 4 Opp 4) published on 2012-02-08)

Answer:

The Ministry of Education has signed with the Guyana Teachers Union a multi-year agreement detailing many benefits to Guyana's teachers. The Government of Guyana is committed to honouring said agreement as it has been thus far doing.

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5. PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE TEACHING OF MATH AND ENGLISH

At the request of the Minister of Education the following question was deferred:

Could the Honourable Minister of Education outline the programme for the spending of the 85.7 million dollars earmarked for the pilot project to improve the teaching of Math and English in the Ministry of Education, as announced by Dr. Roger Luncheon, M.D., Cabinet Secretary at his weekly post- Cabinet news briefing on Wednesday, 4th January, 2012?

(Notice Paper No. 15 (Q 12 Opp 12) published on 2012-02-15)

6. AMAILA FALLS ACCESS ROAD PROJECT

Member Asking: **Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Public Works**

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister of Public Works provide copies of the contract document/s for the Amaila Falls Access road project?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister also provide a breakdown of all payments made to date on this project?

(Notice Paper No. 8 (Q 5 Opp 5) published on 2012-02-15)

Answers

- (i) Answer is available in the Parliamentary Library.
- (ii) See Appendix.

7. **CONSTRUCTION OF A TERMINAL AT CHEDDI JAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide copies of the agreement with China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to design and build a terminal at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport?

(Notice Paper No. 9 (Q 6 Opp 6) published on 2012-02-15)

Answer:

The Agreement is available in the Parliamentary Library.

8. **DEFECTS OF THE SUPERNAAM STELLING**

Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

Can the Hon. Minister of Public Works provide copies of the report by the independent engineers on the defects of the Supernaam Stelling?

(Notice Paper No. 10 (Q 7 Opp 7) published on 2012-02-15)

Answer:

The Report is available in the Parliamentary Library.

9. **OLYMPIC- SIZE SWIMMING POOL**

Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Can the Hon. Minister provide a complete schedule of costs, inclusive of design fees, construction costs, land acquisition, etc., for the Olympic- Size swimming pool?

(Notice Paper No. 11 (Q 8 Opp 8) published on 2012-02-15)

Answer:

Summary

Costs of consultancies for Design and Supervision = \$22,534,500

Cost for construction = \$558,833,432

Cost for land acquisition = 0

The total cost of the National Aquatic Center was **\$581,367,932**

Details

Design and Supervision – was provided by E & A Consultants Inc., Fotcon and Vikab.

Construction services provided by:

| Companies | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Kares Engineering Inc. | \$276,195,151 |
| Myrtha Pool USA | \$208,396,407 |
| Guyana Power and Light | \$4,249,268 |
| Guyana Water Inc. | \$3,400,000 |
| R. Persid Construction | \$20,246,127 |

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| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Pioneer Construction | \$9,796,270 |
| Dipcon Engineering Services | \$23,013,350 |
| G. Bovell Construction | \$3,488,870 |
| Liabilities covered by the MCYS | \$10,037,989 |
| Total | \$558,833,432 |

10. **MARRIOTT GEORGETOWN HOTEL**

Member Asking: **Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Finance**

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister provide a copy of the agreement between the Government of Guyana and China Shanghai Construction Group for the construction of the Marriott Guyana Georgetown Hotel?

- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister provide a copy of MOU/Agreement(s) entered into with Atlantic Hotel Inc.?

- (iii) Were any feasibility study and any environmental impact study done prior to Agreement(s) being signed? If so, can the Minister provide a copy of each?

- (iv) In relation to the financing of the Marriott Hotel, could the Minister give the facts on financing structure and arrangement of this project, namely, how much equity has been committed and by whom, how much will be borrowed from which bank, and whether any (and how much) state funds have been spent and are committed?

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- (v) Is there any Government Guarantee to any financial institution or Chinese company?
- (vi) Who are the shareholders of Atlantic Hotel Inc.? Could the Minister provide documented evidence of this?
- (vii) Who are the owners of the land on which this Marriott Hotel is to be built? Could the Minister provide the copy of transport or title or lease?
- (viii) How much management fee is going to be paid per annum, and to whom, for operating this US\$52M hotel?
- (ix) What rate return is the taxpayer going to get per annum?

(Notice Paper No. 12 (Q 9 Opp 9) published on 2012-02-15)

Answers:

- (i) The Government of Guyana has not entered into an agreement with China Shanghai, but rather Atlantic Hotel Inc., has entered into a contract with S.C.G. International (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd., (a subsidiary of Shanghai Construction Group China) on the 16th November, 2011. Copies of the Contract between AHI and SCG are attached hereto (Copies of Contract are in the Parliamentary Library).

However, Section 1.10 of the executed contract prohibits the Employer (AHI) from making disclosures of the Contractors Documents meaning drawing, software or other documents required under the contract, without the consent of the contractor; as such these sections of the documents are not included in this submission.

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- (ii) There are several agreements/MOUs entered into by Government and/or Government agencies with Atlantic Hotel Inc., which are listed below and copies attached hereto (copies of same are in the Parliamentary Library).
- (a) Tax Agreements between the Government of Guyana and Atlantic Hotel Inc., dated 14th April, 2012;
 - (b) Investment Agreement between Government of Guyana and SCG dated November 15, 2011; and
 - (c) Lease Agreements for Tracts P and R (referred to below).
- (iii) Yes, there was market feasibility study conducted by the Marriott Hotel Group and one conducted in 2010 by an independent American firm which is being updated for 2012. There is also a draft ESIA report which is awaiting final issuance by the EPA pending the receipt of building permission. These documents are confidential at this time; however, the Government is willing to have a closed door presentation that will allow certain details of these documents to be made available under the condition of utmost confidentiality and discussed with key opposition members without these documents being made public.
- (iv) No State funds from the Consolidated Fund have been allocated to this project or are expected to be allocated from the budget. The financing structure includes:
- (a) Equity participation of USD12M (\$8M (Private)/\$4M (NICIL));
 - US\$8M will come from private investors; while various groups have expressed interest, to invest a portion or part of the US\$8M investment, a selection of this investor has not been made (the closing date of a publicly advertised Expressions of Interest (EOI) is March 12). Once one or more private investors are selected, the party/parties will need to be approved by both Marriott and Republic Bank, given that the 67% shareholder will be deemed to be the majority partner.

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- (b) Senior debt syndicated by Republic Bank (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd., of D\$27M; there is a binding Term Sheet that relates to the debt and the terms and conditions;
- (c) Subordinate Loan Stocks of USD\$15M invested by the NICIL; and
- (d) Outfitting costs for the Entertainment Complex estimated at US\$4M that is expected to be funded by the operators (casino, nightclub, and restaurant) once these operators are selected via an REP to be issued.

NICIL will review periodically after completion of the project, the timing for the sale of its investments.

NICIL has spent or will spend less than US\$2M on development costs for the project including design costs to ADUA and preliminary costs prior to Financial Close; these costs are not part of the capital structure of AHL.

- (v) There is no Government Guarantee to any financial institution or Chinese Company for this project. NICIL and the majority shareholder(s) will have to stand behind certain risks – costs overruns and any debt service shortfall until certain debt service ratios are achieved. However, these risks are considered to be minimal given the Feasibility Studies, the deal structure and the form of the “FIDIC Plant and Design Build Contract.”
- (vi) NICIL is currently the sole shareholder of Atlantic Hotel Inc. However, once the private investor is identified the share capital will be increased to facilitate the equity participation and the shares will be divided accordingly, based on the capital structure.

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- (vii) NICIL is the owner of the land which the Marriott Hotel will be built by virtue of the Vesting Order No. 61 of 2010. AHI will have the option to purchase this land once the project is built for a price of US\$1M. In addition, there is a 99 year lease issued by GLSC for Tracts P and R (sections of the sea defence) in favour of Atlantic Hotel Inc. This is the area earmarked for the promenade. Other than the promenade, no physical permanent structures can be placed on Tracts P & R. Copies of the Vesting Order and the Lease Agreements are attached to this answer.
- (viii) The Marriott Hotel group through one of its subsidiaries will be managing the hotel in accordance with standard Marriott rates per annum set out in the Management agreement of 2010 comprising of a Management Fee which is a percentage of gross revenue with an Incentive Fee being a percentage of Operating Profit as well as other fees based on services are also applicable based on international norms. The actual percentages cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality clauses contained in agreements. However, the Government is willing to have a closed door presentation that will allow certain details of these documents to be made available under the condition of utmost confidentiality and discussed with key opposition members without these documents being made public.
- (ix) This will be based on the hotel performance and dividends declared over time or the sale value of NICIL shareholding and common shares as a block. The subordinate loan stock is expected to be repaid as principal only.

11. APPLICATIONS FOR RADIO LICENCES

Member Asking: Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide a list of all persons/ businesses whose applications for radio licences were approved?

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- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide a list of the criteria used to assess applications for radio broadcast licences?

- (iii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say what scoring system was used to evaluate the applications for radio licences?

(Notice Paper No. 13 (Q 10 Opp 10) published on 2012-02-15)

Answers:

- (i) Approval of requests for radio broadcasting licences was issued to the following entities in 2011:
 - (a) Matthews Ridge Community Council
 - (b) Little Rock Television Station
 - (c) Alfro Alphonso and Sons Enterprise
 - (d) New Guyana Company Limited (NGCL)
 - (e) National Television Network
 - (f) Hits and Jams Entertainment
 - (g) Wireless Connections
 - (h) Mr. Rudy Grant
 - (i) Telcor and Cultural Broadcasting Inc.
 - (j) Linden Wireless Communication Network
 - (k) Television Guyana (TVG) Channel 28

- (ii) Entities with applications which were more than five years old were written to via registered mail and asked to confirm their continued interest in same. Only those who re-confirmed were considered. The following criteria were used to assess the applications for radio broadcasting licences:

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- **Guyanese Citizens** – preference was given to applicants who were citizens of Guyana
- **Fit and Proper** – background security checks and consideration of current and previous business ventures.
- **Experience and Capability in Broadcasting and Communication Fields** – preference was given to entities with relevant experience and capability in the broadcasting and communication fields.
- **The Need of the Community** – consideration was given to the need for the service in the particular community.
- **Financial Capability** – consideration was given to this financial standing of the applicants to prevent prolonged occupancy of allotted frequencies without the intention to utilize same.
- **Merit of Broadcasting/Business Proposals and Conformity with National Legislation**
- **Spectrum Considerations**

(iii) No formal scoring system was employed. Each application was considered on its merits.

12. EXISTING TELEVISION STATIONS

Member Asking: Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide a list of all existing television stations whose applications to extend their signal were approved?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide the names of all persons who were responsible for identifying the applicants to be granted approval to operate radio stations?

(Notice Paper No. 14 (Q 11 Opp 11) published on 2012-02-15)

Answers:

- (i) No television stations were granted such approval within the last year.
- (ii) A number of persons were consulted in the evaluation of applicants amongst which were the following persons:
- Head of the Presidential Secretariat and Secretary to the Cabinet – Dr. Roger Luncheon;
 - Press and Publicity Officer to His Excellency, President Donald Ramotar – Mr. Kwame McCoy;
 - Network Administrator, Cabinet Office, Office of the President – Mr. Roy Jadonandan;
 - Head, Project Cycle Management Division, Ministry of Finance – Mr. Tarchand Balgobin.

Rulings By the Speaker of the National Assembly

The Speaker of the National Assembly made two (2) Rulings on the consideration of Financial Papers No. 7 and No.8 of 2011.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 8/2011

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 8/2011.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2012-02-16)

In Committee of Supply**Section 'A' Capital Estimates**

(a) Item No. 1 – Office of the Prime Minister – Prime Minister's Secretariat

Chart of Account – 2601100 was put and carried on the following division:

| DECLINED TO VOTE | AGAINST | FOR |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Williams | Ms Ferguson | Mr. Jafarally |
| Ms Marcello | Mr. Morian | Mr. Damon |
| Dr. Ramayya | Mr. Allen | Dr. Persaud |
| Mrs. Garrido-Lowe | Mr. Jones | Rev. Gilbert |
| Mrs. Hughes | Mr. Adams | Dr. Mahadeo |
| Mr. Nagamootoo | Ms Baveghems | Mr. Seeraj |
| Mr. Ramjattan | Mr. Sharma | Mr. Neendkumar |
| | Mr. Bulkhan | Mr. Lumumba |
| | Mr. Bond | Ms Shadick |
| | Ms Kissoon | Mr. Chand |
| | Mr. Trotman | Mrs. Chandarpal |
| | Ms Selman | Mr. Nadir |
| | Mr. Allicock | Ms Teixeira |
| | Ms Wade | Bishop Edghill |
| | Mr. Felix | Mr. Whittaker |
| | Ms Hastings | Mr. Baksh |
| | Mr. Scott | Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai |
| | Mr. Harmon | Ms Webster |
| | Mr. Greenidge | Ms Manickchand |

24.

Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R. Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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(b) Item No. 2 – Ministry of Public Works and Communication – Public Works

Chart of Account – 1402700 was put and carried.

Chart of Account – 2700400 was put and carried.

(c) Item No. 3 – Ministry of Education – Education Delivery

Chart of Account – 4502200 was put and carried.

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 8/2011 – Supplementary Estimate (Capital) totalling \$3,471,047,823 for the period ended 2011-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 4 FOR 2011) BILL 2012 –

Bill No. 1/2012 published on 2012-01-16

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Orders Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 4 for 2011) Bill No. 1/2012 to be introduced at that stage.

The Minister of Finance, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 171 of the Constitution, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 4 for 2011) Bill No. 1/2011 for consideration by the National Assembly.

Thereafter, on motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as amended:

A BILL intituled An Act to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2011, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

MOTION

ITEM 3 - COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the House selected nine (9) members to the Parliamentary Committee on Selection of the 10th Parliament on February 10, 2012;

AND WHEREAS the House selected four (4) members for the governing PPP/C, four (4) members for the opposition APNU and one (1) member for the opposition AFC;

AND WHEREAS the allocation of a nine (9) member Committee of Selection was by way of an amendment by the combined APNU/AFC opposition to the motion tabled by the Leader of the House for a ten (10) member Committee with five (5) for PPP/C, four (4) APNU and one (1) AFC;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 94(1) provides for “each Select Committee being so constituted to ensure that, as far as possible, the balance of parties in the National Assembly be reflected in the Committee”;

AND WHEREAS the existing balance of the parties in the 10th Parliament is as follows:

| | |
|--------|----------|
| PPP/C: | 32 seats |
| APNU: | 26 seats |
| AFC: | 7 seats |

AND WHEREAS the balance of the parties in the existing Committee of Selection does not conform to Standing Order No. 94(1),

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the decision of the House on the composition of the Parliamentary Committee of Selection be declared inconsistent with Standing Order 94(1);

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:

That the House takes immediate steps to ensure that the composition of the Parliamentary Committee of Selection is brought into conformity with Standing Order No. 94(1); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the currently constituted Committee of Selection be prevented from discharging its functions under Standing Order No. 81.

(Notice Paper No. 24 (M7 Govt 4) published on 2012-03-07)

ITEM 4 - APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President, Mr. Donald Ramotar, for his Address to the National Assembly which was made on the occasion of the Ceremonial Opening of the First Session of the Tenth Parliament of Guyana on Friday, 10th February, 2012, and approves of the policy adumbrated therein.

(Notice Paper No. 7 (M3 Govt 3) published on 2012-02-14)

28.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.04 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.55 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Public Works

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

The Minister of Home Affairs

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 7.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.40 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

The Minister of Finance

Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10

At 9.48 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Standing Order No. 10, was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its business uninterrupted.

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 5 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill

No. 2 /2012 published on 2012-02-02

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

(Read a first time on 2012-02-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ronald Bulkhan

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Thereafter the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Authorities (Elections)(Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.32 p.m., on a motion by Ms Amna Ally, Opposition Chief Whip, seconded by Mr. Basil Williams, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 21st March, 2012.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

15th March, 2012.