

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 27TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2004
IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government (37)

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

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

* The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs

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

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

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

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

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

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

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

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

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

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

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

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

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

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

Mr. Ravindra Dev, 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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

The Hon. Samuel Hinds and the Hon. Clement Rohee for that day's sitting

and

Mr. Basil Williams, up to 3rd April, 2004.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2004.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER -

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

RESOLVED,

That Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2004 at the sitting of the Assembly on Monday, 29th March, 2004.

(Notice Paper No. 108 (M50 Govt46) published on 2004-03-22)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2004 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2004

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 2004.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004 of the total sum of \$64,929,902,000) excluding \$10,681,113,000 which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The motion was then proposed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Tuesday, 13th April, 2004.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 13th April, 2004.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.**

29th March, 2004

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

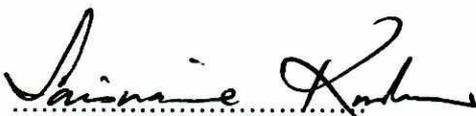
WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

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 2004 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2004-03-29

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 2004, of a total sum of **sixty-four billion, nine hundred and twenty-nine million, nine hundred and two thousand dollars (\$64,929,902,000)**, excluding **ten billion, six hundred and eighty-one million, one hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (\$10,681,113,000)** 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.



Saisnarine Kowlessar
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2004-03-29

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
	01 - 19	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SECTOR		
	01	OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT		
		Programmes		
		011. Head Office Administration	899,491	
		012. Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and other Service)	123,057	
		013. Amerindian Development	114,339	
		014. Public Policy and Planning	629	
		Total	1,137,516	
501		Office of the President		334,418
	02	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER		
		Programme		
		021. Prime Minister's Secretariat	46,627	
		Total	46,627	
	03	MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
		Programmes		
		031. Ministry Administration	7,104,475	
		032. Accountant General Department	1,462,713	
		Total	8,567,188	
526		Ministry of Finance		5,927,128
505		Ethnic Relations Commission		1,100
	04	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS		
		Programmes		
		041. Ministry Administration	412,436	
		042. Foreign Relations	1,196,552	
		043. Foreign Trade and International Cooperation	67,631	
		Total	1,676,619	
506		Ministry of Foreign Affairs		20,900
	07	PARLIAMENT OFFICE		
		Programme		
		071. National Assembly	129,622	
		Total	129,622	
505		Parliament Building		20,000
	08	OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL		
		Programme		
		081. Office of the Auditor General	141,145	
		Total	141,145	
505		Auditor General		32,125
	09	PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION		
		Programme		
		091. Public and Police Service Commission	25,488	
		Total	25,488	
505		Public Service Commission		1,200
	10	TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION		
		Programme		
		101. Teaching Service Commission	31,758	
		Total	31,758	
505		Teaching Service Commission		5,700
	11	ELECTIONS COMMISSION		
		Programmes		
		111. Elections Commission	193,180	
		112. National, Registration and Elections	0	
		Total	193,180	
505		Guyana Elections Commission		17,000
		Subtotal	11,949,143	6,359,571

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
	13	MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
		Programme		
		131. Main Office	24,820	
		132. Ministry Administration	15,618	
		133. Regional Development	72,464	
		Total	112,902	
527		Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development		871,100
	14	PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY		
		Programme		
		141. Public Service Management	136,630	
		Total	136,630	
549		Public Service Ministry		9,600
	15	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION		
		Programme		
		151. Foreign Trade and International Cooperation	1	
		Total	1	
550		Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation		2,800
	16	MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS		
		161. Amerindian Development	1	
		Total	1	
551		Ministry of Amerindian Affairs		66,000
	20 - 29	ECONOMIC SERVICES SECTOR		
	21	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE		
		Programmes		
		211. Ministry Administration	117,913	
		212. Crops and Livestock Support Services	569,576	
		213. Fisheries	44,259	
		214. Hydrometeorological Services	90,997	
		Total	822,745	
508		Ministry of Agriculture		832,900
509		Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project		368,778
510		Ministry of Agriculture - MMA 111		77,000
512		Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fisheries		2,000
	23	MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		
		Programmes		
		231. Main Office	162,080	
		232. Ministry Administration	29,148	
		233. Tourism, Commerce, Industrial Devel. and Consumer Affairs	24,578	
		Total	215,806	
529		Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry		38,600
	30 - 39	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR		
	31	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS		
		Programmes		
		311. Ministry Administration	531,023	
		312. Public Works	187,824	
		313. Communication and Transport	37,727	
		Total	756,574	
517		Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air Transport Reform Programme		638,000
519		Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences		906,000
520		Ministry of Public Works and Communications		472,500
548		Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges/Roads		5,380,700
		Subtotal	2,044,659	9,665,978

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM	NET SUM
			GRANTED CURRENT	GRANTED CAPITAL
	40 - 49	SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR		
	41	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION		
		Programmes		
		411. Main Office	268,821	
		412. National Education Policy - Implementation & Supervision	99,243	
		413. Ministry Administration	770,801	
		414. Training and Development	426,596	
		415. Education Delivery	3,138,685	
		Total	4,704,146	
543		Ministry of Education		381,200
544		Ministry of Education - S.S.R.P.		789,982
547		Guyana Education Access Project		279,000
553		Basic Education Access & Management Support Program		450,286
	44	MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS		
		Programmes		
		441. Ministry Administration	95,735	
		442. Culture	143,075	
		443. Youth	43,799	
		444. Sports	64,704	
		445. Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training	175,469	
		Total	522,782	
541		Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture		46,800
	45	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER		
		Programme		
		451. Housing and Water	352,389	
		Total	352,389	
523		Ministry of Housing and Water		1,320
530		Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing		1,338,000
552		Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated		1,246,025
	46	GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION		
		Programme		
		461. Public Hospital	1,949,897	
		Total	1,949,897	
	47	MINISTRY OF HEALTH		
		Programmes		
		471. Ministry Administration	447,308	
		472. Disease Control	313,985	
		473. Primary Health Care Services	229,041	
		474. Regional and Clinical Services	651,714	
		475. Health Sciences Education	153,207	
		476. Standards and Technical Services	133,967	
		477. Rehabilitation Services	96,631	
		Total	2,025,853	
516		Ministry of Health		840,325
	48	MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY		
		Programmes		
		481. Ministry Administration	93,632	
		482. Social Services	1,280,240	
		483. Labour Administration	99,619	
		Total	1,473,491	
545		Ministry of Human Services & Social Security		12,900
546		Ministry of Human Services & Social Security - SIMAP		949,700
		Subtotal	11,028,558	6,335,538

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
	50 - 69	PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR		
	51	MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS		
		Programmes		
		511. Secretariat Service	65,970	
		512. Guyana Police Force	2,967,763	
		513. Guyana Prisons Service	432,933	
		514. Police Complaints Authority	2,847	
		515. Guyana Fire Service	253,880	
		516. General Register Office	45,219	
		Total	3,768,612	
507		Ministry of Home Affairs		367,950
	52	MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS		
		Programmes		
		521. Main Office	8,101	
		522. Ministry Administration	25,660	
		523. Attorney General Chambers	153,284	
		524. Office of the State Solicitor	9,620	
		525. Deeds Registry	27,154	
		Total	223,819	
514		Ministry of Legal Affairs		97,500
	53	GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE		
		Programme		
		531. Defence Headquarters	2,781,139	
		Total	2,781,139	
	55	SUPREME COURT		
		Programmes		
		551. Supreme Court of Judicature	188,989	
		552. Magistrate's Department	176,515	
		Total	365,504	
	56	PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS		
		Programme		
		561. Public Prosecutions	48,442	
		Total	48,442	
505		Director of Public Prosecutions		2,000
	57	OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN		
		Programme		
		571. Office of the Ombudsman	4,587	
		Total	4,587	
505		Office of the Ombudsman		0
	58	PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL		
		Programme		
		581. Public Service Appellate Tribunal	8,519	
		Total	8,519	
505		Public Service Appellate Tribunal		2,000
	70 - 89	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR		
	71	REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI		
		Programmes		
		711. Regional Administration and Finance	39,682	
		712. Public Works	84,999	
		713. Education Delivery	272,632	
		714. Health Services	109,955	
		Total	507,268	
531		Region 1: Barima/Waini		81,628
		Subtotal	7,707,890	551,078

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
532	72	<p align="center">REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM</p> <p>Programmes 721. Regional Administration and Finance 63,384 722. Agriculture 113,662 723. Public Works 63,310 724. Education Delivery 547,240 725. Health Services 176,046 Total 963,642 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam 171,340</p>		
533	73	<p align="center">REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA</p> <p>Programmes 731. Regional Administration and Finance 103,927 732. Agriculture 124,054 733. Public Works 53,005 734. Education Delivery 810,883 735. Health Services 321,050 Total 1,412,919 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara 134,415</p>		
534	74	<p align="center">REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA</p> <p>Programmes 741. Regional Administration and Finance 76,100 742. Agriculture 84,410 743. Public Works 96,597 744. Education Delivery 1,071,543 745. Health Services 110,171 Total 1,438,821 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica 84,121</p>		
535	75	<p align="center">REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE</p> <p>Programmes 751. Regional Administration and Finance 33,144 752. Agriculture 60,002 753. Public Works 86,504 754. Education Delivery 486,868 755 Health Services 108,048 Total 774,566 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice 132,000</p>		
536	76	<p align="center">REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE</p> <p>Programmes 761. Regional Administration and Finance 42,006 762. Agriculture 150,581 763. Public Works 63,188 764. Education Delivery 898,737 765. Health Services 420,508 Total 1,575,020 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne 176,388</p>		
537	77	<p align="center">REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI</p> <p>Programmes 771. Regional Administration and Finance 60,081 772. Public Works 73,574 773. Education Delivery 283,953 774. Health Services 120,670 Total 538,278 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni 61,182</p>		
		Subtotal	6,703,246	759,446

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	AGENCY NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED CURRENT	NET SUM GRANTED CAPITAL
538	78	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI</p> <p>Programmes 781. Regional Administration and Finance 782. Public Works 783. Education Delivery 784. Health Services Total Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni</p>	26,311 39,380 101,196 52,960 219,847	65,000
539	79	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO</p> <p>Programmes 791. Regional Administration and Finance 792. Agriculture 793. Public Works 794. Education Delivery 795. Health Services Total Region 9: Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo</p>	44,393 6,465 53,266 225,538 84,397 414,059	103,309
540	80	<p style="text-align: center;">REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE</p> <p>Programmes 801. Regional Administration and Finance 802. Public Works 803. Education Delivery 804. Health Services Total Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice</p>	63,142 56,925 662,918 135,874 918,859	103,721
Subtotal GRAND TOTAL \$			1,552,765 40,986,261	272,030 23,943,641