

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 42ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 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 - performing the functions of President)

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

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 (Absent - on Leave)

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

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 (Absent - on Leave)

* 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)

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)

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

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

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

*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.

Mr. Winston S. 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

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

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

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

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on Leave)

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. (Absent)

OFFICERS

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

Ms. Bibi Baldeo, Principal Assistant Secretary (F)

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.05p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds,

Hon. Shaik Baksh,

Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally,

Mr. Ivor Allen,

Mr. Deryck Bernard,

Ms Amna Ally,

and

Ms Geneveive Allen for that day's sitting

and

Mrs. Sheila Holder, up to 21st December, 2004.

(ii) **Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., 40th Anniversary as a Member of Parliament**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations and best wishes to the Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on his 40th Anniversary as a Member of Parliament. He also wished Mr. Persaud continued good health.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

The Minister of Finance presented the following Orders:

- (i) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 2) Order 2004.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) (No. 2) Order 2004.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 2004.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

For Written replies

1. **LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE FUNCTIONING OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN GUYANA**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following question:

Does the Government have a plan to introduce legislation to regulate the functioning of community policing in Guyana, and if so, when?

(Notice Paper No. 125 (Q62 Opp61) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

No, the Government has no current plans to regulate by legislation a service that is being voluntarily provided.

2. **PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONRY FOR THE SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following question:

When does the Government intend to procure the weaponry and equipment to be used by the Special Weapons and Tactics team recently trained?

(Notice Paper No. 126 (Q63 Opp62) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

The timing of procurement of weapons and equipment relates to an on-going collaboration between the Administration and the Office of the Commissioner of Police. Procurement is thus on going.

7.

3. **CITIZENS AFFECTED BY CRIME ON THE EAST COAST OF DEMERARA**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following question:

Can the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) say what plans, if any, are in place to issue firearm licences to citizens affected by crime on the East Coast of Demerara?

(Notice Paper No. 127 (Q64 Opp63) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

There are no specific plans to issue firearm licences to citizen affected by crime on the East Coast of Demerara.

The specified procedures remain applicable.

4. **RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO VILLAGES ON THE EAST COAST OF DEMERARA AFFECTED BY CRIME**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following question:

Does the Government intend to treat all villages along the East Coast of Demerara as vulnerable to crime and therefore in need of assistance, or to concentrate on providing relief and assistance to a selected few?

(Notice Paper No. 128 (Q65 Opp64) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

The Government will continue to respond to communities that are affected and also maintain a suitable level of responsiveness in Divisions that so warrant.

5. **VIOLENT CRIME ON THE EAST COAST OF DEMERARA**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following question:

What measures will the Government take to reduce the incidence of violent crime on the East Coast of Demerara?

(Notice Paper No. 130 (Q67 Opp66) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

The Government supports the operational plans being employed in the overall strategy of the Guyana Police Force as appropriate.

At a policy level, the Government continues to permit Community Policing.

6. **GUYANA FIRE SERVICE**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.) the following questions:

Can the Minister say:

- (i) What, if any, are the plans to immediately improve the material capability of the Guyana Fire Service to address fires destroying dwellings and businesses alike?
- (ii) Does the Government intend to purchase a fire boat or boats?
- (iii) How many fire tenders are in operation in Georgetown?
- (iv) Will the Government establish fire stations on the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara?

(Notice Paper No. 141 (Q78 Opp77) published on 2004-10-26)

Written replies submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs (a.g.)

- (i) The Guyana Fire Service through the Guyana Government has received funding for the purchase of a Land Rover Type Fire Appliance, valued at fifteen million, six hundred thousand dollars (\$15,600,000.00). The order for this vehicle has already been placed.

Government has also approved the purchase of a second Land Rover appliance along with protective fire fighting equipment such as:

- (a) Protective Clothing
- (b) Breathing Apparatus Sets
- (c) Other ancillary fire fighting equipment

This will be done before the end of this year 2004.

- (ii) The Government and the Fire Service's Administration are aware of the need for a Fireboat, which will greatly assist in fire fighting operations if necessary on the water front. Having a Fireboat will also give support to land base fire fighting operations. However, the cost of acquiring such a boat will be over three hundred million (\$300,000,000.00) Guyana dollars.
- (iii) At present in the city of Georgetown there are two Water Tenders, one Water Carrier and three portable Pumps.

Location	Appliances	Portable Pumps
Central Fire Station	1 Water Tender	2
West Ruimveldt Fire Station	1 Water Tender	1
Campbellville Fire Station	1 Water Tender	-

- (iv) Both the Government and the Guyana Fire Service have recognised that there is growing expansion in the housing and commercial sectors throughout the Country. As such we see the need in establishing Fire Service presence in those areas which are becoming highly populated over the next five years.

In this regard a new Fire Station was completed in Anna Regina in 2003.

At present a contract has been awarded for the building of a Fire Station in Linden. Works have already started on site preparation. This Station should be completed in 2005.

In keeping with this trend , as part of the Fire Service's Capital Budget for the next four years, plans are in place to build Fire Stations along West Coast Berbice, East Coast and East Bank Demerara.

7. **ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

Can the Hon. Minister say what the cost of litigation is to date, and the estimated cost, of the Arbitration proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and how the Government intends to meet this cost?

(Notice Paper No. 152 (Q89 Opp88) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

It is not easy to answer this question at this early stage of the Arbitral proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. In reply, I do not consider it to be in the national interest to go beyond reiterating what President Jagdeo said when speaking to reporters at the

Office of the President on Friday, 2nd April, 2004 (as reported in Stabroek News of 3rd April, 2004), namely, that 'CGX Energy will help to pay Guyana's legal bills in seeking a solution to the maritime dispute with Suriname'. The President also said on that occasion that 'budgetary allocations would be made and he expects that the bulk of the bills will come due towards the end of the 3 year period' contemplated as the duration of the proceedings. I hope the Honourable Member will appreciate this response, given his own forensic experience and his understanding of the national interests of Guyana.

8. **GUYANA/SURINAME BOUNDARY ISSUE(S)**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

What forms of third party involvement does the Government approve of to have the Guyana/Suriname boundary issue(s) resolved amicably and expeditiously?
(Notice Paper No. 153 (Q90 Opp89) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

It would be obvious to the Honourable Member, I believe, that the 'third party' involvement, of which the Government approves in seeking to resolve the maritime dispute with Suriname, is the one which it is pursuing. On our present assessment, recourse to arbitration under the ITLOS is the one most likely to resolve the Guyana/Suriname maritime boundary issue more expeditiously and with greater finality than any other.

I would like to remind the House of the Address to the nation by His Excellency the President on Wednesday, 25th February, 2004. In that Address, the President after indicating all the alternative avenues of settlement pursued by the Government and frustrated by Suriname, including third party mediation through CARICOM, said this:

In these circumstances, the Government of Guyana has a clear and pressing duty to seek to resolve our maritime differences with Suriname by every peaceful means. Fortunately, as the Government of Barbados has recently demonstrated in its maritime dispute with Trinidad and Tabago, such means are at hand in the form of procedures available under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to which both Suriname and Guyana are Parties. These procedures allow for disputes relating to maritime boundaries between adjacent States which are Parties to the Treaty to be submitted for binding resolution to an Arbitral Tribunal established under the Treaty.

And His Excellency continued:

Everyone can be assured that we will proceed with the arbitral process with Suriname which we have initiated in the spirit of the United Nations Convention and in keeping with the highest standards of international amity - not as an adversarial process, but one designed to establish a sound basis for economic development in the maritime regions of both Suriname and Guyana. We hope the Government of Suriname will cooperate with us in achieving this.

That intention and that hope have characterized Guyana's approaches throughout.

As for other boundary issue outside the remit of the Arbitral Tribunal under UNCLOS, these currently remain within the mandate of the Joint Border Commissions. If this bilateral mechanism fails to produce a solution, third party involvement could conceivably be agreed upon by the parties through recourse to any of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes provided for in the United Nations Charter. The Government of Guyana will not foreclose any of its options, whether bilateral or multilateral, in seeking an amicable and expeditious resolution of its differences with Suriname.

Guyana is fully committed to the amicable and expeditious resolution of its boundary problems with Suriname.

Perhaps I should end this response by reminding the Honourable Member and the House of the penultimate paragraph of the President's Address:

Despite our differences on other matters, the political Parties of this country have always been united in matters affecting Guyana's territorial integrity. I look forward to us maintaining this tradition. On Monday we celebrated in unity the birth of our Republic; today let us go forward in unity strong in our resolve to stand together in defence of our territorial integrity under law - under the law of Guyana, under the law of Nations.

That continues to represent the Government's hope and expectation.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

Can the Hon. Minister say why since his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2001, a new Permanent Representative to the United Nations on behalf of Guyana has not been appointed; and if no hindrances exist, when such appointment will be made?

(Notice Paper No. 154 (Q91 Opp90) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

The position is currently being reviewed along with others in the Foreign Service. It is expected that it will soon be regularized with the postings planned for the New Year 2005.

10. **GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AND STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS HAITI**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

What are the underpinning consideration that inform the Government's position and strategy vis-a-vis Haiti, and what is envisaged in terms of Guyana/Haiti and Haiti /CARICOM relations in the near future?

(Notice Paper No. 155 (Q92 Opp91) published on 2004-10-26)

Written reply submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Government of Guyana is concerned at the situation in Haiti, a sister CARICOM country, especially following the demission from office of President Aristide. In the eyes of the Government, the circumstances of the President's departure constituted an interruption of the democratic process in violation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and CARICOM's Charter of Civil Society. Accordingly, along with other CARICOM states, Guyana had called for an impartial investigation of the circumstances of President Aristide's relinquishment of his office. Even though this investigation has not yet been conducted, Guyana has been working, within the CARICOM framework, for the early return of democratic government to Haiti, the peaceful stabilization of the country and significant humanitarian assistance to its people.

Following the deliberations of CARICOM Heads of Government on Haiti at their recently concluded Special Meeting in Trinidad and Tabago, it was reiterated that there could be no compromise on the fundamental principles of respect for human rights, due process and good governance enshrined in the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society. It was agreed that CARICOM would work with the Rio Group (on which CARICOM is represented by Guyana) and other interested parties to facilitate a dialogue among the political elements in Haiti, aimed at promoting inclusivity and reconciliation.

Guyana will continue to play its part to ensure the restoration of democratic government to Haiti and to bring relief to the suffering of the people from political violence and other forces.

11. **CONSTRUCTION OF THE DEEDS REGISTRY - GEORGETOWN**

Mr. Raphael Trotman asked the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the following questions:

- (i) What the final cost of the construction of the Deeds Registry, Georgetown, will be?
- (ii) When the current construction works at the Deeds Registry, Georgetown are likely to conclude?

(Notice Paper No. 142 (Q79 Opp78) published on 2004-10-26)

Written replies submitted by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

- (i) The final cost of the construction at the Deeds Registry, Georgetown will be US\$901,763.00.

A summary of these costs are as follows-

THE DEEDS REGISTRY PROJECT

Component 1

Consultancy Firm

Completed at a cost of US\$150,600.00

Improvement of the Legal Framework

Foley, Hoag & Eliot LLP.

Component 11

Chemonics Int.

Strengthening of the Deeds Registry

Contract terminated cost US\$233,002.78

Contracted Individual consultants to complete project

16.

	Contracted Sum	Amt. Paid
Information Technologist - L. Hinds	US\$42,450.00	US\$9,213.75
Architect - O. Hinds	US\$26,200.00	US\$16,560.00
 Archival & Records		
Mng. Specialist - M. Brown	US\$43,245.00	US\$16,976.01
Co-ordinator (terminated) - R. Thakur	US\$22,500.00	US\$14,801.05
- S. Mahase	US\$1,500.00	US\$1,500.00
 Renovation Works		
C. Ambrose	US\$162,569.00	US\$102,219.25
M. Halley (Lands & Survey)	US\$ 1,016.94	US 1,016.94
 Furniture, Shelving & Equipment		
H.N. Dhanraj Contractor	US\$74,602.77	US\$19,193.98
 Human Resource Development		
S.V. Jones	US\$12,000.00	US\$ 3,000.00
 Computerisation		
IBM (contracting firm)	US\$72,503.12	US\$14,500.00
 Component 111		
	Project Management - Base Line and End-of- Project Surveys Total Cost US\$20,000.00	
Individual Consultant	M. Monplasilir	
PHASE 1	Baseline completed at a cost of US\$13,000.00	
PHASE 2	End-of-project to be done at a cost of US\$7,000.00	

17.

Purchase of Vehicle US\$19,576.47

Grand Total Cost of the Project US\$901,763.00

Amt. Paid to date US\$615,156.00

Local Counterpart Contribution (US\$)

Approved Category	Budget	Amt. to date	Bal.
Local Personnel			
-payment to project staff	185,500	50,176.31	135,326.69
-advertisement			
-telephone			
-fuel			
-servicing of vehicle etc.			
Equipment & Installation	179,500	16,808.31	162,691.69
-purchase of binding machine			
-computers			
Local Legal Personnel	50,000	0.00	0.00
Total	415,000	66,984.62	348,015.38

(ii) The construction works at the Deeds Registry, Georgetown are likely to be concluded in one month's time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

MINISTRY OF HEALTH BILL 2004 - Bill No. 24/2004

The Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to continue the Ministry with responsibility for Health and for matters connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2004

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2004 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,187,695,200 for the period 2004-07-29 to 2004-11-15.

(Notice Paper No. 165 (M62 Govt57) published on 2004-11-30)

(Paper presented on 2004-11-29)

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

Assembly resumed.

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

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

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2004 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,187,695,200 for the period 2004-07-29 to 2004-11-15.

ITEM 2- CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2004

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2004 - Supplementary Estimates (Capital) totalling \$1,599,782,306 for the period ending 2004-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 166 (M63 Govt58) published on 2004-11-30)

(Paper presented on 2004-11-29)

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

Assembly resumed.

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

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

RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2004 - Supplementary Estimates (Capital) totalling \$1,599,782,306 for the period ending 2004-12-31.

BILL - First, Second and Third Readings

ITEM 4 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL 2004 - Bill No. 23/2004 published on 2004-11-26

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 2004 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed.

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, 2004, 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.

ITEM 5 - PROTOCOL AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 90TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE HELD IN JUNE, 2002

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions, Recommendations and other Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions, Recommendations and other Instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of members' states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions, Recommendations and other Instruments adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposal setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana, proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions, Recommendations and other Instruments adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society.

RESOLVED,

That the National Assembly approve the conclusion set out in the State Paper on the undermentioned Protocol and Recommendations adopted at the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference held in June, 2002;

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation:

- (i) Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention 1981.
- (ii) Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002, No. 193.
- (iii) The List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002, No. 194.

(Notice Paper No. 79 (M28 Govt26) published on 2003-11-19)

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 6 - AGE OF CONSENT BILL 2004 - Bill No. 22/2004 published on 2004-11-29

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act and the Marriage Act.

(Read a first time on 2004-11-29)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Volda Lawerance

Mrs. Indranie Chanderpal

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.57 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.38 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Dr. Dagleish Joseph

Mrs. Shirley Melville

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Mr. Abdul Kadir

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman

and

Mr. James Mc Allister

Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Age of Consent Bill 2004 - Bill No. 22/2004, was referred to a Special Select Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 16th December, 2004.



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

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

9th December, 2004.