

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH APRIL, 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

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

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

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**

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 2.15 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2012

The Speaker announced that the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2012 will be dealt with at the end of that day's sitting.

6.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2012 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2012

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2012-03-30)

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Current Expenditure

011 Administrative Services

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendments which were put and carried on the following division:

“ **Agency Code 01** – Office of the President

Line Item 011 – Administrative Services

Account Code and Description:

6321 – Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations be reduced to 707,149

The Government Information Agency and the National Communications Network be reduced to 1 dollar, respectively.”

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

/...7

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe	Rev. Gilbert
Mrs. Hughes	Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Nagamootoo	Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Neendkumar
Ms Ferguson	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Morian	Ms Shadick
Mr. Allen	Mr. Chand
Mr. Jones	Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Adams	Mr. Nadir
Ms Baveghems	Ms Teixeira
Mr. Sharma	Bishop Edghill
Mr. Bulkan	Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Bond	Mr. Baksh
Ms Kissoon	Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Mr. Trotman	Ms Webster
Ms Selman	Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Allicock	Ms Manickchand
Ms Wade	Mr. Benn
Mr. Felix	Dr. Anthony
Ms Hastings	Mr. Ali
Mr. Scott	Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Harmon	Dr. Westford
Mr. Greenidge	Mr. R Persaud
Mrs. Backer	Dr. Singh
Dr. Norton	Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Nandlall
Mr. B. Williams	Dr. Ramsammy

8.

Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

32

Line Item 011- Administrative Services under Current Expenditure was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

01 – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Current Expenditure

012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)

Mr. Carl Greenidge withdrew his amendments under Line Item 012 Presidential Advisory; Account Code and Description 6116 – Contracted Employees and 6284 – Other, respectively.

Thereafter Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan moved the following amendments which were put and carried on the following division:

“**Line Item 012** – Presidential Advisory;

Account Code and Description - 6116 – Contract employees and 6284 – Other be reduced to 147 million dollars and 24.2 million dollars, respectively.”

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Allen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Ms Shadick
Mr. Chand
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster

10.

Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Mr. Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

32

Thereafter Agency Code 012- Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Services) under Current Expenditure was passed as amended.

01 – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Current Expenditure

014 Public Policy and Planning

Capital Expenditure

011 Administrative Services

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendments which were put and carried on the following division:

“Agency Code 01 – Office of the President

Line Item 011 – Administrative Services

Account code and Description -

1212000 Information Communication Technology be reduced to 6,580,000

3400700 Government Information Agency be reduced to 0.0001

4502100 National Communications Network be reduced to 0.0001

1700100 Minor Works be reduced to 0.0001”

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

Mr. Allen

Mr. Jones

Mr. Adams

Ms Baveghems

Mr. Sharma

Mr. Bulkan

Mr. Bond

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Ms Shadick

Mr. Chand

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Nadir

Ms Teixeira

Bishop Edghill

Mr. Whittaker

Mr. Baksh

12.

Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Mr. Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Mr. R Persaud
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Mr. Nandlall
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

32

Thereafter Line Item 011 – Administrative Services under Capital Expenditure was passed as amended.

09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS
Current Expenditure

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

Capital Expenditure

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

101 Teaching Service Commission

Capital Expenditure

101 Teaching Service Commission

11 - GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

111 Elections Commission

112 Elections Administration

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan moved the following amendments which were put and carried on the following division:

“Agency Code – 11 Guyana Elections Commission

Line Item 112 – Elections Administration

Account Code and Description –

6293 - Refreshments and Meals be reduced to 27 million dollars

6294- Other be reduced to 403 million dollars”

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Ms Shadick

Mr. Allen
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Adams
 Ms Baveghems
 Mr. Sharma
 Mr. Bulkan
 Mr. Bond
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Harmon
 Mr. Greenidge
 Mrs. Backer
 Dr. Norton
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. B. Williams
 Ms Ally
 Dr. Roopnarine
 Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

Mr. Chand
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Dr. Westford
 Mr. R Persaud
 Dr. Singh
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
 Mr. Nandlall
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Hinds

Thereafter Line Item 112 – Election Administration under Current Expenditure was passed as amended.

Capital Expenditure

111 Elections Commission

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 8.28 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 9.04 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

Current Expenditure

531 Defence Headquarters

Capital Expenditure

531 Defence Headquarters

57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Current Expenditure

571 Ombudsman

58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Current Expenditure

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

Capital Expenditure

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Current Expenditure

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 11

At 10.00 p.m., the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved a motion to Suspend Standing No. 11 to enable the Assembly to continue with the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2012 uninterrupted.

Ms Amna Ally moved and Mrs. Deborah Backer seconded an amendment for extension from six (6) days to seven (7) days for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure.

The Minister of Finance spoke to the amendment.

Thereafter the amendment moved by Ms Amna Ally was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Mr. Allen
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings
Mr. Scott
Mr. Harmon

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Ms Shadick
Mr. Chand
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford

Mr. Greenidge

Mrs. Backer

Dr. Norton

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. B. Williams

Ms Ally

Dr. Roopnarine

Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

 33

Mr. R Persaud

Dr. Singh

Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett

Mr. Nandlall

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Hinds

 32

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

02 – OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**Current Expenditure**

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

Mr. Carl Greenidge withdrew his amendment on Line Item 021-Prime Minister's Secretariat, Account Code and Description 6321 – Guyana Power and Light.

Thereafter Mr. Khremaj Ramjattan moved the following amendment which was put and carried on the following division:

“Agency Code 02 – Office of the Prime Minister

Line Item – 021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

Account Code and Description: 6321- Guyana Power and Light be reduced to 5,000”

/...19

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
 Ms Marcello
 Dr. Ramayya
 Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Ms Ferguson
 Mr. Morian
 Mr. Allen
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Adams
 Ms Baveghems
 Mr. Sharma
 Mr. Bulkan
 Mr. Bond
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Harmon

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
 Mr. Damon
 Dr. Persaud
 Rev. Gilbert
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Seeraj
 Mr. Neendkumar
 Mr. Lumumba
 Ms Shadick
 Mr. Chand
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Ms Manickchand
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Dr. Westford

Mr. Greenidge

Mrs. Backer

Dr. Norton

Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. B. Williams

Ms Ally

Dr. Roopnarine

Brigadier (Ret'd) Granger

33

Mr. R Persaud

Dr. Singh

Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett

Mr. Nandlall

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Rohee

Mr. Hinds

32

Thereafter Line Item 021-Prime Minister's Secretariat under Current Expenditure was passed as amended.

Capital Expenditure

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

Current Expenditure

071 National Assembly

Capital Expenditure

071 National Assembly

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.56 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 26th April, 2012.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

25th April, 2012.