

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 (Absent)

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)

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

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

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3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., 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. (Absent – on leave)

\*\*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.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) 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.

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**(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 2.05p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

**Sympathy to Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the Death of his Mother**

The Speaker extended sympathy to the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the death of his mother.

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**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P., on behalf of the Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana, presented a Petition for the appointment of a new, fully constituted University of Guyana Council to ensure that the University of Guyana has a governing body that has the capacity to transform the institution into a truly national asset and requested that the Petition be referred to a Special Select Committee.

(Circulated)

The question that the Petition be read was put and carried.

The Petition was read by the Clerk.

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

1. **REHABILITATION WORKS AT THE MAHDIA DORMS**

Ms June Marcello, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

1. Given that schools will be reopening in exactly one month, one week and two days from today, and given that the fact that the Mahdia Dorms are in a deplorable state – broken toilets, broken bed frames, very old mattresses, no electricity in the boys dorms, broken walls and windows – can the Hon. Minister say how soon rehabilitation works will begin at the Mahdia Dorms?
2. Can the Hon. Minister say if the rehabilitation works will be completed in time for the reopening of the new school term?

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At the request of the Minister of Education, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development replied.

**2. OVERCROWDING AT THE PARAMAKATOI DORMS**

Mrs. June Marcello, M.P., asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

1. Given that the Paramakatoi Dorms was built to house approximately 250 students but currently houses approximately 350 students, can the Hon. Minister say what plans the Ministry has to reduce the continuous overcrowding at the Paramakatoi Secondary School Dorms?
2. And if there are plans to reduce this unhealthy overcrowding, can the Hon. Minister say how soon this will be done?

Thereafter the Minister of Education replied.

**3. DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE**

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics the following question:

Whereas on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 a section of the Demerara Harbour Bridge collapsed causing major disruption of traffic to and from West Demerara.

And Whereas the said collapse economic losses, loss of man hours and severe inconvenience.

And Whereas the collapse is only the most recent in a series of dislocation caused to commuters to and from West Demerara by the unscheduled closure of the Demerara Harbour Bridge.

8.

Could the Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics state if and when a Commission of Inquiry will be held to inquire into the bridge collapse, what went wrong, who should be held culpable, what action has been taken to put things right and what compensation will be paid to persons who suffered losses?

The Speaker informed Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., that his question will be answered in the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics' statement in the Assembly.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

**1. LEVEL SEVEN STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH TEXTBOOKS IN THE FOUR 'CORE' SUBJECTS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Cathrine Hughes, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister say how many Level Seven students have been provided by the government with individual textbooks in the four 'core' subject areas?

**(Notice Paper No. 17 (Q 14 Opp 14) published on 2012-03-05)**

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).



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2. **ACQUIRING LEVEL SEVEN TEXTBOOKS IN THE FOUR 'CORE' SUBJECTS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Cathrine Hughes, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister say how much money was spent during the period January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2011 on acquiring Level Seven textbooks in the four 'core' subject areas?

**(Notice Paper No. 18 (Q 15 Opp 15) published on 2012-03-05)**

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

3. **2012 BUDGET CUTS**

**Member Asking:** Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister state the name, agency, designation, and salary of persons whose employment were terminated as a direct consequence of the 2012 Budget cuts?

**(Notice Paper No. 63 (Q 33 Opp 33) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answer:**

See Appendix 1

4. **CONTRACTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY B.K. INTERNATIONAL INC.**

**Member Asking:** Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

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

Could the Hon. Minister provide this House with contracts that are being undertaken by the company B.K. International Inc. that are under the supervision of the Ministry of Works, the completion date of the contracts and the present state of completeness?

(Notice Paper No. 65 (Q 35 Opp 35) published on 2012-06-29)

**Answer:**

Due to the bulkiness of the answers to the above question, the Speaker directed that the answers be placed in the Parliamentary Library where Members could have access to it.

5. **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK INC.**

**Member Asking:** Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister state how much money has been paid by the Government of Guyana to the National Communications Network Inc. between March 31, 2012 and June 18, 2012, for advertisements relative to the consequences of cuts in the 2012 National Budget being aired on NCN Channel 11?

(Notice Paper No. 66 (Q 36 Opp 36) published on 2012-06-22)

**Answer:**

Total payments by the Government of Guyana to National Communications Network Inc. for advertisements amounted to \$8.7 million for the period between March 31, 2012 and June 18, 2012.

**6. THE IMPENDING BAN ON THE MERCURY TRADE**

**Member Asking:**                    **Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

Could the Hon. Minister say, given the impending ban on the mercury trade, what transition program is being put in place to mitigate impacts on the small scale and medium scale miners who have traditionally utilised mercury as their sole processing option?

**(Notice Paper No. 67 (Q 37 Opp 37) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answer:**

With reference to the impending ban on mercury trading (which is slated to occur in 2013), the Ministry (through the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission) is currently implementing programs which are geared towards promoting alternative technologies to mercury and promoting improved mineral recovery. It is intended that the activities will highlight the current health risks of using mercury and reiterate the urgent need for a change to mercury free technologies for the processing of Gold.

Field trials and demonstration projects are being carried out to exhibit the use of Shaking Tables, Mini Inline Leach Reactors (MILR), ICON concentrators and Knelson concentrators, which are being tested in the six mining districts of Guyana. Preliminary results have shown that the equipment is capable of producing a very clean gold concentrate from gold-bearing black-sand concentrates. These technologies can be used to improve the recovery of both free gold and sulphide related gold. In all tests carried out to date, significant increases in total recoveries have been achieved.

The Ministry is also making efforts to implement a well-targeted awareness programme, exchange visits to countries where mercury uses are outlawed (such as French Guiana), the establishment of good monitoring program and the empowerment of strong enforcement institutions.

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Efforts are also being made to lobby the international community for the creation of an international mechanism for developing countries and countries with economies in transition for technological advancement. The Ministry intends for such assistance to benefit small and medium scale gold and diamond miners so that a safe and effective transition from mercury use can be achieved.

7. **OPTIMAL ALTERNATIVE TO MERCURY AMALGAMATION**

**Member Asking:** Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Could the Hon. Minister tell this House what are the environmental and health risks assessments which have been performed to determine the optimal alternative to mercury amalgamation?

**(Notice Paper No. 68 (Q 38 Opp 38) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answer:**

Alternatives to mercury amalgamation (which include the use of the shaking table, ICON Concentrators and Knelson Concentrators) are currently under field testing in the six mining districts of Guyana.

The results of the field tests are expected to be presented during 2012.

Environmental and Health Risk Assessments were noted to be an integral part of the current investigations and will form part of the feasibility analysis of alternative technologies to mercury amalgamation.

However, it should be noted that the aforementioned technologies were adopted by other countries and jurisdictions (such as French Guiana) and assessments showed that, with proper training and maximum use, these technologies are able to provide the level of sustainability that is required in the mining sector.

#### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACT 1996, PART IV

**Member Asking:**                    **Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

Could the Hon. Minister tell this House since the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1996, Part iv, mandates that the public shall have 60 days from the publication of notices confirming the submission of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to submit comments to the Environmental Protection Agency, why does the EPA take more than six months to provide responses to ESIA's?

**(Notice Paper No. 69 (Q 39 Opp 39) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answer:**

The Environmental Protection Act, 1996, under section 11(10) provides a sixty-day period for the submission of comments from the Public and Sector Agencies on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Nevertheless, the Act does not provide clear guidance on the stipulated time period for the Agency to make a decision on whether to approve or reject the EIA. The guidance provided by the Act regarding approval or rejection of an EIA project, is indicated under Regulation 12(1) of the EPA Act, mandating the Agency to take into account the following before making a decision:

- (a) The submissions made under section 11(10) and the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Board made under section 18(2);
- (b) The views expressed during the consultations under section 11(9); and
- (c) The environmental impact assessment and environmental impact statement.

Based on the above mandate, it is therefore implied that the EPA is required, after the sixty-day period, to consider the public comments made under section 11(10) and also await the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Board.

The EPA was tasked by Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment to conduct a review of the timelines associated with the EIA process specifically relating to the response provided to developers after the 60-day period and it was found that the responses to developers, after the submission of the EAB's recommendations, is an average of 15 days during the last five years.

#### **9. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**Member Asking:**                    **Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House why does the Environmental Assessment Board not adhere to the Rules and Procedures as outlined in the document titled 'Environmental Impact Assessment Rules and Procedures'?
- (ii) Who are the members of the Environmental Assessment Board?
- (iii) Are there members from States Agencies on the Board?
- (iv) Who are the public representatives on that Board?

**(Notice Paper No. 70 (Q 40 Opp 40) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The Environmental Assessment Board adheres to the Rules and Procedures of the document titled Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines Volume 1: Rules and Procedures for Conducting and Reviewing EIAs, Version 5, November, 2004, Environmental Protection Agency/Environmental Assessment Board.

The EAB has recognized some areas in the Guidelines which need revision, and the current Board has held meetings with the Environmental Management Division and the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency to address areas of improvement. This work is on-going.

The Environmental Assessment Board (EAB) was appointed by Cabinet Decision on 2012-01-10, effective January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012.

Members of the Board for the period specified above are as follows:

- Ms Vanessa Benn – Chairperson
- Ms Denise Simmons
- Mr. Omkar Lochan
- Mr. Nicholas Chuck-A-Sang
- Dr. Ashok Sookdeo

(ii) Two members on the Board are from State Agencies:

- Dr. Ashok Sookdeo – Director, Environmental Health Unit, Ministry of Health
- Mr. Omkar Lochan – Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

The remaining three members' representations are as follows:

- Ms Vanessa Benn – IWOKRAMA
- Ms Denise Simmons – School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana
- Mr. Nicholas Chuck-A-Sang – Petroleum Engineer

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(iii) There is one public representative, Mr. Nicholas Chuck-a-Sang.

It should be noted that the EAB is established under the Environmental Protection Act, 1996, Third Schedule:

**Third Schedule**

**Environmental Assessment Board**

Composition of Board	1.	The Environmental Assessment Board (in this Schedule referred to as “the Board”) shall consist of not less than three nor more than five members, appointed by the Minister.
Chairman and Vice-Chairman	2.	The Minister shall designate a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among the members of the Board.
Term of Members	3.	The members of the Board shall be appointed for a term not exceeding two years to serve in a part-time or periodic capacity.
Quorum	4.	Three members of the Board constitute a quorum.
Remuneration	5.	The members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration and expenses as may be determined by the Minister.
Practice of the Board	6.	(1) The Board may determine its own procedure and may, subject to the approval of the Minister, make rules governing such procedure. (2) All hearings before the Board shall be in public and the parties to the proceedings shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel.



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- (3) Fourteen days notice of all hearings shall be given by advertisement in at least one daily newspaper.
- (4) (a) After the conclusion of the hearing, the Board shall make its report in writing.
- (b) Any member of the Board shall not participate in the report of the Board unless he was present throughout the hearing and heard the evidence and submissions of the parties.
- (c) No member of the Board shall participate in the report of the Board unless he was present throughout the hearing and heard the evidence and submissions of the parties.
- (d) The report of the Board shall be a public document and shall be available to members of the public upon payment of the reasonable cost of photocopying.

Protection of members      7.      No action, suit, prosecution or other proceedings shall be brought or instituted personally, against any member of the Board in respect of an act done bona fide in execution of this Act.

Disclosure of interest      8.      (1)      Any member of the Board who has any interest, directly or indirectly, in any matter before the Board:-  
(a) Shall disclose the nature of his interest to the Board; and

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(b) Shall not take part in any deliberation or decisions of the Board with respect to that matter.

(2) A disclosure under this section shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board.

#### **10. EMISSION ASSOCIATED WITH BOSAI LINDEN OPERATIONS**

**Member Asking:**                      **Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment**

Could the Hon. Minister provide to this House the results of environmental and health risks assessment for the emission associated with Bosai Linden operations?

**(Notice Paper No. 71 (Q 41 Opp 41) published on 2012-06-22)**

**Answer:**

Bosai Minerals Group (Guyana) Inc. is the holder of an Environmental Permit for its bauxite processing operations at Linden that remains valid until November 31, 2014. In keeping with the Agency's procedures, Bosai Minerals Group (Guyana) Inc. was required to complete an Environmental Management Plan which addressed possible environmental risks associated with its overall operations.

It should be noted that the Environmental Protection Agency does not conduct environmental and health risks assessments, nor has any independent studies been done to assess the environmental and health risks associated with the emission from Bosai Minerals Group (Guyana) Inc.

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However, the Agency conducts compliance audits of the operations against its Permit Conditions. In addition, the Company is required to submit monthly reports. These monthly reports captures some amount of environmental monitoring including surface and ground water, noise and weather.

**11. WATER CANNON TO BE USED BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

**Member Asking:**                    **Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Home Affairs**

Could the Hon. Minister inform this House:

- (a) When was the Water Cannon acquired by the Government of Guyana?
- (b) From which country was the Water Cannon sourced?
- (c) At what cost was the Water Cannon sourced?
- (d) Where is the Water Cannon now located?
- (e) Is the Water Cannon in working order?
- (f) Has the use of the Water Cannon been factored into the existing protocols relating to the use of force by the Guyana Police Force?
- (g) How many members of the Guyana Police Force have been trained to operate the Water Cannon?
- (h) What are the circumstances under which the Water Cannon would be utilized?

**(Notice Paper No. 75 (Q 45 Opp 45) published on 2012-06-29)**

**Answers:**

- (a) “The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon was purchased by the Government of Guyana in 2010, but was delivered by the Supplier in 2011.

- (b) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon was sourced from the People's Republic of China.
- (c) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the acquisition cost of the Water Cannon was 20.8 million Guyana dollars.
- (d) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon is located at the Tactical Services Unit, Drill Square, Eve Leary, Kingston, Georgetown.
- (e) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon is in working order.
- (f) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon has been factored into the existing protocols relating to the use of force by the Guyana Police Force with the application principle of minimum force as a guide.
- (g) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that ten (10) Members of the Guyana Police Force have been trained to operate the Water Cannon.
- (h) The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wishes to inform the National Assembly that the Water Cannon would be deployed by the Police, as it sees fit, as part of its evolving strategic posture and in keeping with the current Institutional Modernisation Process of the Force and in compliance with the United Nations and other internationally accepted standards where non-lethal force should be used by the Police only as a last resort to address incidents of unusual civil disorder.

The primary objective of the Guyana Police Force is to minimise injuries and the loss of lives. The acquisition of the Water Cannon is also in sync with the policy of the Government of Guyana to encourage the Police to find more non-lethal means to manage civil disorders in this country.”

**12. CONTRACT TO PROVIDE MEDICINES AND PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES TO THE GOVERNMENT**

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

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Finance**

The company New Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation was recently awarded a contract for \$1.3B (Guy) to provide medicines and pharmaceutical supplies to the Government.

Could the Minister identify under which Line Items in the Estimates, Current and/or Capital, from which this appropriation was disbursed?

**(Notice Paper No. 76 (Q 46 Opp 46) published on 2012-06-29)**

**Answer:**

The relevant expenditure will be met by Agency 47 – Ministry of Health, Programme 474 – Regional and Clinical Services, under line item 6221 – Drugs and Medical Supplies.

**6.5 BILLION GUYANA DOLLARS RECEIVED FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Finance**

- (i) The European Union recently gave the Government of Guyana \$6.5B (Guy). Was the Minister aware before completion of the 2012 Budget preparations that this sum was going to be a revenue stream for Guyana for 2012?

- (ii) If he was so aware, where in the Estimates was this sum provided for as a detail of Revenue for 2012?
- (iii) Has this sum gone into the Consolidated Fund?

**(Notice Paper No. 77 (Q 47 Opp 47) published on 2012-06-29)**

**Answers:**

- (i) The European Union did not ‘recently give’ the Government of Guyana G\$6.5 billion. Instead, an agreement was signed under which up to G\$6.5 billion may be disbursed in the future by the European Union to Guyana. Budget 2012 includes projected receipt of European Union grants.
- (ii) European Union budget support grants are reflected in Table 6 – Central Government, Details of Revenue Estimates, Line Item 5782 – EU.
- (iii) European Union Budget support grants are transferred to the Consolidated Fund following disbursement.

**13. VACANIES IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Education**

Could the Hon. Minister tell this House:

- (i) How many vacancies exist in NCERD?
- (ii) How many vacancies exist in Central Ministry, Georgetown?

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- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister further tell this House how soon these vacancies will be filled?

**(Notice Paper No. 78 (Q 48 Opp 48) published on 2012-06-29)**

**Answers:**

- (i) There are 49 Vacancies existing in NCERD.  
(ii) There are 97 vacancies existing in Central Ministry, Georgetown.  
(iii) Efforts are being made now to fill those vacancies that now exist and that are necessary for the smooth functioning of the Ministry.

**14. OFFICERS IN ACTING POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister tell this House how many officers are now in acting positions in the Main Office, Policy Unit, Administration, and Training and Development sections in the Ministry of Education?

**(Notice Paper No. 79 (Q 49 Opp 49) published on 2012-06-29)**

**Answer:**

There are no persons in acting positions in the Main Office, Policy Unit or Administration Department of the Ministry of Education.

In the Training and Development section there are five (5) persons acting.

**For Oral Replies**

**15. THE FAMILY COURT**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. asked the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the following questions:

\*Could the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs tell this House:

- (a) Whether the building which will house the Family Court is completed?
- (b) Whether the necessary furniture and fixtures are in place?
- (c) Has there been any recruitment of support staff for the court?
- (d) How many judges have been appointed?
- (e) What is the date or time-frame set for the beginning of cases to be heard?

**(Notice Paper No. 61 (Q 31 Opp 31) published on 2012-06-22)**

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

**16. PERSONS REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE FAMILY COURT**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., asked the Minister of Human Services and Social Security the following questions:

\*Could the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security tell this House:

What provisions, if any, are being put in place to assist those persons living outside of Georgetown who will be requested to attend the Family Court?

**(Notice Paper No. 62 (Q 32 Opp 32) published on 2012-06-22)**

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



17. **SUPENAAM FERRY STELLING**

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Works the following question:

\*Whereas B.K. International Inc. is the contractor responsible for construction works at the Supenaam Ferry Stelling, and whereas there has been a delay in the completion of the work at the Ferry Stelling as publicly expressed by the Honourable Minister of Public Works.

Could the Hon. Minister say what, if any, sanctions have been levied against this contractor?

**(Notice Paper No. 64 (Q 34 Opp 34) published on 2012-06-22)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

1. **DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE**

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics made a statement on the Demerara Harbour Bridge.

2. **COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA COUNCIL**

The Minister of Education made a statement on the composition of the University of Guyana Council.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**Killing of three unarmed persons by the Guyana Police Force**

At 2.55 p.m., Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, withdrew a request for leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly on a definite matter of urgent public importance on the killing of three unarmed persons by the Guyana Police Force in Linden.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, moved a motion, in accordance with Standing Order No. 31, to obtain the consent of the Speaker and the assent of the majority, to dispense with the required notice to allow the Assembly to consider a No Confidence motion in the Minister of Home Affairs.

The following Members spoke to the motion to dispense the required notice:

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Mr. Basil Williams

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.20 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.15 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Speaker of the National Assembly gave a Ruling on re: admissibility of motion of No Confidence.

The motion, which was seconded by Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, 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. Bulkan  
 Mr. Bond  
 Ms Kissoon  
 Mr. Trotman  
 Ms Selman  
 Mr. Allicock

**AGAINST**

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

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

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Mr. Ali  
Dr. Ramsarran  
Dr. Westford  
Mr. R. Persaud  
Dr. Singh  
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
Mr. Nandlall  
Mr. Rohee  
Mr. Hinds

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**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.30 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**CONDEMN THE KILLING OF AND THE INJURY TO SEVERAL PERSONS AT LINDEN, UPPER DEMERARA-BERBICE REGION, ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012 AND TO DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF HON. CLEMENT ROHEE, M.P., MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**

Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS three unarmed persons – Shemroy Bouyea of Wismar Housing Scheme, Ivan Lewis of Wismar Housing Scheme and Ron Somerset of Amelia's Ward – were shot and killed by Police at Mc Kenzie, Linden during a peaceful protest on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 in which minimum force was not applied by the Police to disperse the crowd but, rather, lethal fire was opened causing death and injury to several persons;

AND WHEREAS it seems evident that, contrary to conventional police training doctrine, with particular reference to the control of crowds, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., is reported by the Government Information Agency on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 to have stated:

*“tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons could have been used to restore order, however, live rounds is a deadly response that is not catered for nowhere (sic) in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), in a situation such as this...”*

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people's elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and in which Ministers of the Government, in particular, have a dual obligation to both direct the executive arms of the state and to account to their electors for their governance and in which the National Assembly requires that every Minister discharges his or her obligation to the nation, be held accountable and accepts responsibility for the performance and behaviour of his or her Ministry;

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Clement Rohee, M.P., is Minister of Home Affairs and is authorised under the Police Act, Chapter 16:01 to issue "general orders and directions" to the Commissioner of Police for the command and superintendence of the Guyana Police Force;

AND WHEREAS if the Police Force performs in a manner so egregiously incompetent that the Administration is likely to be brought into ridicule or contempt, the Minister in accordance with the doctrine of ministerial responsibility that not only binds the Minister to the Administration's policies but, also binds the Administration to the Minister's performance, thereby requires that he must resign if his conduct undermines public confidence in his ability to hold high office with competence;

AND WHEREAS this country has witnessed a pattern of threats to public security in the form of the failure to stanch the spate of criminal violence – including banditry; execution; extra-judicial killings; murder; narcotics-trafficking; piracy; torture; the shooting of peaceful protesters on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 and various corrupt practices in the Guyana Police Force – while, responsibility for public security rested with the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P.;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is obligated to consider the evidence of mismanagement and maladministration of any Ministry of the Government which could have been avoided or prevented by prudent administration, especially in light of the decision of the Minister of Home Affairs to act only after the shooting as expressed in a statement published in the state-owned Guyana Chronicle Newspaper dated 19<sup>th</sup> July which reads, inter alia:

*“...the Minister of Home Affairs has, within the meaning of the Police Act Chapter 16:01, issued general and specific directions to the Commissioner of Police (ag) to effect immediate changes at the command level at E&F Police Division of which Linden is an integral part.”*

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of three persons and the injury to several others by the Guyana Police Force in Linden on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 and extends sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased and sympathy to the injured persons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly censures and expresses ‘no confidence’ in the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., over his inability to discharge his responsibility for public security and calls for the immediate revocation of his appointment as a Minister of the Government and for his dismissal from office.

**(Notice Paper No. 84 (M35 Opp 21) published on 2012-07-25)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Catherine Hughes

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Ms Vanessa Kissoon

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.03 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.58 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Minister of Housing and Water

The Minister of Health

Mr. Cornel Damon

Mr. Faizal Jafarally

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.02 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

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**HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Brickdam,**

**Georgetown.**

**25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.**



