

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2013**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**  
**BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)**

**Speaker (1)**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.

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

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

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

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

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

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., Government Chief Whip

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

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

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

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

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. (Absent – on leave)

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., Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

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. Bulkan, 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. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

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

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 2.09 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(1) **Welcome of Members of the Rotary Clubs of Guyana**

The Speaker informed Members that he had invited Ms. Abigail Primo and Mr. Ray Morris, Members of the Rotary Club of Guyana, who were representing youths, to listen to the debate.

6.

(2) **Grade Six Assessment Examination**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended best wishes to the children who wrote the Grade Six Assessment examination.

(3) **Phagwah and Good Friday Greetings**

The Speaker extended Phagwah greetings to all Hindu brothers and sisters and to all Christian brothers and sisters who, over the weekend, will be celebrating the resurrection of Christ by observing his crucifixion on Good Friday.

(4) **Request for Leave**

The Speaker informed Members that leave had been granted to-

- Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
- Hon. Priya Manickchand, Minister of Education,
- Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj,
- Dr. Veersammy Ramayya and
- Mrs. Catherine Hughes for that day's sitting

**Sympathy on the Death of the wife of Dr. Veersammy Ramayya**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, expressed sympathy to Dr. Veersammy Ramayya and his family on the death of his wife.

**Recuperation of the husband of Mrs. Catherine Hughes**

The Speaker wished Mr. Nigel Hughes a speedy recovery.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2013.

(Circulated)

/...7

7.

(2) By the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment:

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Annual Reports for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

1. **IMPACT OF THE 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY'**

**Member Asking:** Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this House whether an evaluation has been conducted to ascertain the impact of the 'No Child left behind Policy' on the delivery of education in Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No.148 (Q 90 Opp. 89) published on 2013-02-05)**

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).

2. **ASSESSMENT OF THE 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY'**

**Member Asking:** Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this House whether the Hon. Minister considers an assessment of the 'No Child left behind Policy' a necessity in relation to the improvement of the quality of education delivery in Guyana?

**(Notice Paper No.149 (Q 91 Opp. 90) published on 2013-02-05)**

/...8

8.

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. **PAYMENT OF CLEANERS BY PARENT TEACHER'S ASSOCIATIONS (PTA)**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Can the Hon. Minister explain why Parent Teacher's Associations (PTA) are being asked to pay cleaners employed at senior secondary schools?

**(Notice Paper No.161 (Q 103 Opp 101) published on 2013-02-06)**

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).

4. **DESIGNATED "PLAY SPACES" IN CERTAIN AREAS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. James Bond, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

(i) Could the Hon. Minister inform this House, whether there are areas designated as "play spaces" in Liliendaal, Bel-Air, Cummings Lodge, Pattensen, Turkeyen, Sections A.B, C, D, E and F Sophia?

(ii) Could the Hon. Minister indicated, whether any of those areas so designated have been re-allocated as house lots to a private person or religious organisation?

**(Notice Paper No.145 (Q 87 Opp. 86) published on 2013-01-31)**



**Answers:**

“(i) Yes, there are open spaces in the areas as follows:

- (a) Block “X” Liliendaal (Section A Sophia)  
Parcel #594 (2.078 acres) as shown on Plan #30889
- (b) Bel Air is not an area under the control of Central Housing and Planning Authority.
- (c) Section “C” Cummings Lodge – Parcel #1319 (1.422 acres) as shown on Plan #33788
- (d) Patterson/Turkeyen (Section “B” Sophia) – Parcel #928 (0.5372 acres) as shown on Plan #20680

Note: Western portion of playfield subdivided into four lots.

- (e) Section “C” Turkeyen – Parcel #1753 (1.8142 acres) as shown on Plan #31185
- (f) Section “D” Turkeyen – Parcel #2534 (0.7896 acres) as shown on Plan #31184 allocated to the Non-Governmental Organisation, the Guyana Islamic Trust, for the construction of a multi-purpose centre for community use.
- (g) Block “E” Sophia – Parcel #31 (0.9412 acres) as shown on Plan #30758
- (h) Block “F” Sophia – No open space was possible due to the density of the area.

(ii) All open spaces designated have been retained. In the case of Section “D” Turkeyen, the open space was allocated to the Non-Governmental Organisation, the Guyana Islamic Trust for the construction of a multi-purpose centre for community use.”

**5. LICENCE FOR CHINA CENTRAL TELEVISION**

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

**Minister Answering:**                **The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say when the licence for China Central Television was applied for?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say when the licence was granted?
- (iii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide details of the procedures taken to examine and approve the application for the licence?
- (iv) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide documentation to substantiate the process?
- (v) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say who is the licensee and who is paying for the licence?
- (vi) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say whether CCTV was required to register as a local company and submit its financial plan to the National Frequency Management Unit or Guyana National Broadcasting Authority?
- (vii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say whether CCTV/NCN was required to submit its technical specifications and other requirements before being identified for, allocated or licenced to broadcast on a Frequency on Guyana's Limited Public Resource, the Radio Frequency Spectrum?

11.

- (viii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide details of the arrangement between CCTV and NCN for rental of space on the Transmission Tower, terrestrial space, electricity, maintenance, etc.?
- (ix) Can the Hon. Prime Minister explain why an entire frequency is being allocated to a Foreign Power and does such an allocation set a precedent in Guyana's International Relations for any other Foreign Entity to demand the same, on terms no less favourable to those offered to the Chinese, based on a Most Favoured Nation status?

**(Notice Paper No.162 (Q 104 Opp 102) published on 2013-02-22)**

**Answers:**

- “
- (i) No licence was applied for.
  - (i i) No licence was granted.
  - (iii) No such procedures, taking account of (i) and (ii).
  - (iv) No such documentation, taking account of (i) and (ii).
  - (v) No licensee and no payments for licence.
  - (vi) No registration nor financial plan required as CCTV neither applied for nor was granted a licence.
  - (vii) There was no need to so do taking account of (i) and (ii).
  - (viii) No rental of space by CCTV.
  - (ix) There is no allocation to a Foreign Power.”

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**100 Anniversary of Aviation in Guyana**

The Minister of Public Works made a statement on the 100 Anniversary of Aviation in Guyana.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND  
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

1. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND 38(9)(a)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 10(2) and 38(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2013 at the sitting of the National Assembly on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

**(Notice Paper No. 167 (M 63 Govt 22 ) published on 2013-03-19)**

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

2. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 10(2) AND (1)**

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

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(1) provides for every sitting of the National Assembly to begin at 2.00 p.m. in the afternoon and unless previously adjourned, end at 10.00 p.m. on the same day;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(2) provides that the Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolved, the Speaker shall, at 4.00 p.m., suspend the sitting for one hour, and at 7.00 p.m. suspend the sitting for half an hour;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(3) provides for the Assembly at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debates suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs one (1) and two (2) of Standing Order No. 10;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 10(4) provides for the Assembly from time to time, alter, by Resolution, the hours provided by Standing Order No. 10 for the beginning and ending of a sitting.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order Nos. 10(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Assembly to sit during the following hours to complete the debate on the 2013 Budget within the five (5) days allotted for this purpose by Standing Order No. 71(2):

- 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. – Sitting
- 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 5.00 pm. - 7.30 p.m. – Sitting
- 7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. – Suspension
- 8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. – Sitting
- 

**(Notice Paper No. 177 (M 64 Govt 23 ) published on 2013-03-25)**

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**(i) GOVERNMENT’S BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET FOR 2013**

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 2013.

14.

The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2013 of the total sum of \$194,343,764,873) excluding \$14,496,679,127 which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)

The Minister of Finance read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

**Easter Greetings**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger extended Phagwah and Easter Greetings to all Guyanese. The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs joined Brig. (Ret'd) Granger in extending Phagwah and Easter greetings.

The Prime Minister informed the Assembly that the debate on the Budget would commence on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.35 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013.

.....

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

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

**25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.**

