

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 51ST 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, 18TH APRIL, 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

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., 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.

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.

Ms Rennita L. Williams, 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 2.02 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Installation of Monitor in M.P.s' Lounge

The Speaker informed Members, that the Parliament Office had installed monitors in the M.P.s' Lounge and other offices in the Public Buildings for Members and staff to view the proceedings of sittings of the National Assembly.

6.

Paperless Parliament

The Speaker informed Members that the Parliament Office was desirous of moving towards a paperless Parliament in the near future, where all Members would have a Tablet in their possession and, that this would reduce the large quantity of papers presently used.

Visit of Students from Camille's Academy

The Speaker informed Members that students of Camille's Academy on the East Bank of Demerara were observing the proceedings at that sitting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION PASSED AGAINST REO, REGION NO. 8**

Member Asking: **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development**

Could the Hon. Minister inform Members of the National Assembly what actions he has taken in relation to the No-Confidence Motion that was passed against REO Harsawack of Region No. 8?

(Notice Paper No.173 (Q 110 Opp 108) published on 2013-03-25)

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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).

7.

2. **PROTOCOL RELATING TO AN APPOINTED OFFICIAL OF A REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

Member Asking: **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development**

Could the Hon. Minister inform Members of the National Assembly what is the protocol relating to an appointed official of a Regional Administration committing the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development for the provision of goods and services and in particular, if Mr. Harsawack is empowered to commit the Region in the absence of approval of the RDC?

(Notice Paper No.174 (Q 111 Opp 109) published on 2013-03-25)

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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. **COMMUNITY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Member Asking: **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development**

In 2006, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and Government of Guyana initiated the project named at the caption and which had as its purpose/objective, to prepare four communities for their upgrading to municipalities, these being, Bartica, Charity, Parika and Supenaam.

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8.

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister provide the relevant details for the Communities Services Enhancement Project, which was initiated in 2006 and give information on its current status?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say which other communities have been added to the four previously identified and for similar upgrading in status, if any?

(Notice Paper No.175 (Q 112 Opp 110) published on 2013-03-25)

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development did not pass copies of the answers 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).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2013 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2013

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2013.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2013-03-25)

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

9.

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendment which was put and carried on the following division:

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

Line Item 011 – Administrative Services

Account Code and Description 011/6321 – Guyana Information Agency be reduced to one (1) dollar.”

FOR

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

AGAINST

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

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

33

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

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Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendment which was put and carried on the following division:

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

Line Item 011 – Administrative Services

Account Code and Description 011/6231 – National Communications Network be reduced to one (1) dollar.”

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe	Rev. Gilbert
Mrs. Hughes	Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Nagamootoo	Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Neendkumar
Ms Ferguson	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Morian	Mr. Chand
Ms Williams	Bibi Shaddick
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
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) 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
Ms Ally	Mr. Rohee

12.

Dr. Roopnarine
Brig.(Ret'd) Granger

33

Mr. Hinds

32

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

01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Current Expenditure

012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)

Capital Expenditure

011 Administrative Services

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

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11 - GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

- 111 Elections Commission
- 112 Elections Administration

Capital Expenditure

- 111 Elections Commission

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

Capital Expenditure

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendment which was put and carried on the following division:

“ **Agency Code 02** – Office of the Prime Minister Capital Expenditure

Line Item 021 – Prime Minister’s Secretariat

Account Code and Description 021/2601100– Electrification Programme be reduced to five billion dollars”

FOR

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

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Bibi Shaddick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill

Mr. Bulkan
 Mr. Bond
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 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

 33

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

 32

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

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

Current Expenditure

071 National Assembly

Capital Expenditure

071 National Assembly

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.25 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.12 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:

**48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL
SECURITY**

Current Expenditure

481 Strategic Planning, Administration & Human Services

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

484 Child Care and Protection

Capital Expenditure

481 Strategic Planning, Administration & Human Services

482 Social Services

483 Labour Administration

484 Child Care and Protection

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Current Expenditure

441 Ministry Administration

442 Culture

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 9.50 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2013 uninterrupted.

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:

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Current Expenditure

442 Culture

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendment which was put and negatived on the following division:

“ **Agency Code 44** – Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Current Expenditure

Line Item 442 – Culture

Account Code and Description 442/6231– Sports and Art Development Fund be reduced to one (1) dollar”

DECLINED TO VOTE

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

FOR

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Ramayya	Ms Williams	Dr. Persaud
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe	Mr. Jones	Rev. Gilbert
Mrs. Hughes	Mr. Adams	Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Nagamootoo	Ms Baveghems	Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Sharma	Mr. Neendkumar
	Mr. Bulkan	Mr. Lumumba
	Mr. Bond	Mr. Chand
	Ms Kissoon	Bibi Shaddick
	Mr. Trotman	Mr. Nadir
	Ms Selman	Ms Teixeira
	Mr. Allicock	Bishop Edghill
	Ms Wade	Mr. Whittaker
	Mr. Felix	Mr. Baksh
	Ms Hastings	Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
	Mr. Scott	Ms Webster
	Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon	Mr. G. Persaud
	Mr. Greenidge	Ms Manickchand
	Mrs. Backer	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Norton	Dr. Anthony
	Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Ali
	Mr. B. Williams	Dr. Ramsarran
	Ms Ally	Dr. Westford
	Dr. Roopnarine	Mr. R. Persaud
	Brig. (Ret'd) Granger	Dr. Singh
		Mr. Nandlall
		Dr. Ramsammy
		Mr. Rohee

Line Item 442- Culture under Current Expenditure was then passed as printed.

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Current Expenditure

443 Youth

444 Sport

Capital Expenditure

441 Ministry Administration

442 Culture

443 Youth

444 Sport

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 19th April, 2013.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

18th April, 2013.

