

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 54th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 23RD 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 (Absent – on leave)

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**

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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.

**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

Ms Deslyn West, Table Officer

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.25 p.m. with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Deputy Speaker informed Members that the Speaker will take the Chair after the 5.00 p.m. suspension of the sitting.

6.

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).

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)

7.

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.

- (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).

8.

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:

77- REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

Current Expenditure

- 771 Regional Administration and Finance
- 772 Public Works
- 773 Education Delivery
- 774 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 771 Regional Administration and Finance
- 772 Public Works
- 773 Education Delivery
- 774 Health Services

78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

Current Expenditure

- 781 Regional Administration and Finance
- 782 Public Works
- 783 Education Delivery
- 784 Health Services

9.

Capital Expenditure

- 781 Regional Administration and Finance
- 782 Public Works
- 783 Education Delivery
- 784 Health Services

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.15 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed with the Speaker in the Chair.

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:

79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKATU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

Current Expenditure

- 791 Regional Administration and Finance
- 792 Agriculture
- 793 Public Works
- 794 Education Delivery
- 795 Health Services

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10.

Capital Expenditure

- 791 Regional Administration and Finance
- 792 Agriculture
- 793 Public Works
- 794 Education Delivery
- 795 Health Services

80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE

Current Expenditure

- 801 Regional Administration and Finance
- 802 Public Works
- 803 Education Delivery
- 804 Health Services

Capital Expenditure

- 801 Regional Administration and Finance
- 802 Public Works
- 803 Education Delivery
- 804 Health Services

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Current Expenditure

- 311 Ministry Administration
- 312 Public Works
- 313 Transport

Capital Expenditure

- 311 Ministry Administration
- 312 Public Works

Assembly resumed

11.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 9.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary 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:

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Capital Expenditure

312 Public Works

313 Transport

Mr. Carl Greenidge moved the following amendment:

“ **Agency Code 31** – Ministry of Public Works Capital Expenditure

Line Item 313 – Transport

Account Code and Description 313/1600900– CJIA Modernisation Project be
reduced to one (1) dollar”

Due to an error on the Notice Paper (motion), the following division on the amendment was declared null and void by the Speaker:

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

AGAINST

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

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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
 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

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

13.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 11.35 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 12.00 midnight 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:

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Capital Expenditure

313 Transport

Thereafter, Line Item 313 – Transport Capital Expenditure, was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Ms Ferguson

FOR

Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba

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

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

Assembly resumed

ADJOURNMENT

At 12.05a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 24th April, 2013.

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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

23rd April, 2013.