

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 68TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

* The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development

* The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

* The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Local Government

*Non-elected Member

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Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) New Year Greetings

As that was the first sitting for the year, the Speaker welcomed Members and extended best wishes to them for 1996.

He also stated that he was seeking their continued advice and co-operation and was looking forward to their working together for a successful year.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Winston Murray for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister:

✓(i) Annual Report of the Teaching Service
Commission for the year 1994.
(Circulated)

✓(ii) Report of the Commission of Inquiry into
discharge of cyanide and other noxious
substances into the Omai and Essequibo
Rivers. (Dated 5th January, 1996)
(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the
House):

✓ Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar
Corporation for the year 1994.
(Circulated)

(3) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security:

✓(i) Annual Report of the Central Housing and
Planning Authority for the year 1994.
(Circulated)

✓(ii) Review of the Operations of the Sugar Industry
Labour Welfare Fund for the year 1994.
(Circulated)

(4) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of
Guyana for the financial year 1996.
(Circulated)

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

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion which was put and carried:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Senior Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 1996 at the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 19th January, 1996.

(Notice Paper 92 (M72 Govt59) published 15.1.96)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1996
(1996 BUDGET)

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior 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 1996.

The Senior Minister of Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1996 of the total sum of \$30,946,218,000, excluding \$15,622,872,000, which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The Senior Minister read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.37 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 29th January, 1996.

6.

Distribution of Documents

Following the Adjournment of the Assembly, the following documents were distributed to Members:

- (i) Budget Speech by the Senior Minister of Finance for 1996.
- (ii) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure for 1996.
- (iii) Capital Projects Profiles for 1996.
- (iv) Motion by the Senior Minister of Finance for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1996.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

19th January, 1996

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenues and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1996 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 1996-01-19;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1996, of a total sum of thirty billion, nine hundred and forty-six million, two hundred and eighteen thousand dollars (\$30,946,218,000), excluding fifteen billion, six hundred and twenty-two million, eight hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars (\$15,622,872,000) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect to finance.

.....
Bharrat Jagdeo
Senior Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1996-01-19

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
<i>all figures G\$'000</i>				
PRESIDENT				
	1	Office of the President	552,336	
	2	Guyana Defence Force	1,229,635	
	3	Guyana National Service	140,099	
501		Office of the President		500,689
PRIME MINISTER				
	4	Office of the Prime Minister	20,664	
CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES				
	5	Parliament Office	57,063	
	6	Office of the Auditor General	70,823	
	7	Office of the Ombudsman	1,606	
	8	Public and Police Service Commissions	11,078	
	9	Teaching Service Commission	7,561	
	10	Public Prosecutions	16,184	
	11	Public Service Appellate Tribunal	1,883	
	12	Elections Commission	16,503	
	13	Public Utilities Commission	23,098	
505		Constitutional Agencies		52,450
LEGAL AFFAIRS				
	14	Ministry of Legal Affairs	13,038	
	15	Supreme Court of Judicature	62,054	
	16	Magistrates	42,012	
	17	Attorney General	30,093	
	18	Official Receiver	7,969	
	19	Deeds Registry	14,623	
514		Ministry of Legal Affairs		118,162
FOREIGN AFFAIRS				
	20	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	785,492	
506		Ministry of Foreign Affairs		22,000
HOME AFFAIRS				
	21	Ministry of Home Affairs	22,507	
	22	Ministry of Home Affairs – Police	1,088,812	
	23	Prisons	161,767	
	24	Police Complaints Authority	1,306	
	25	Fire Protection Services	71,416	
	26	National Registration Centre	112,751	
	27	General Register Office	10,726	
507		Ministry of Home Affairs		141,200
AGRICULTURE				
	28	Ministry of Agriculture	42,976	
	29	Crops and Livestock Division	470,466	
	30	Lands and Surveys Division	29,680	
	31	Hydraulics Division	70,730	
	32	Hydrometeorological Division	81,647	
	33	Fisheries Division	11,513	
508		Ministry of Agriculture		761,600
509		Ministry of Agriculture – Sea Defence		0

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	NET SUM GRANTED	
		CURRENT	CAPITAL
		<i>all figures G\$'000</i>	
510	Ministry of Agriculture – MMA III		46,000
512	Ministry of Agriculture – Artisanal Fishery		15,500
	HEALTH		
	34 Ministry of Health	468,763	
	35 Ministry of Health – National Hospitals	715,990	
	36 Ministry of Health – Other Health Programmes	307,093	
516	Ministry of Health		686,000
	EDUCATION AND CULTURE		
	37 Ministry of Education and Cultural Development	504,311	
	38 Nursery Schools	83,188	
	39 Primary Schools	178,903	
	40 Secondary/Multilateral and Community High Schools	302,199	
	41 Technical and Vocational Schools	86,098	
	42 Practical Instruction Centres	16,360	
	43 Teacher Training Institutions	106,641	
	44 Resource Centre	47,105	
	45 Department of Culture	52,994	
542	Ministry of Education – Primary Education Improvement Programme		1,230,000
543	Ministry of Education and Cultural Development		276,462
	LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY		
	46 Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security	684,277	
503	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security – SIMAP		1,250,000
504	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security		33,058
	FINANCE		
	47 Ministry of Finance	1,360,062	
	48 Accountant General Department	599,336	
	49 Customs and Excise Department	162,477	
	50 Inland Revenue Department	258,633	
526	Ministry of Finance		2,245,500
	TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY		
	51 Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry	110,487	
528	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry		17,300
	PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
	52 Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development	794,402	
	53 Ministry of Local Government	133,155	
	54 Civil Aviation Department	229,512	
	55 Region No.1 Barima/Walini – Administration	59,365	
	56 Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Agriculture	6,898	
	57 Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Education	92,108	
	58 Region No.1 Barima/Waini – Health	33,138	
	59 Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam – Administration	51,800	
	60 Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam – Agriculture	33,434	
	61 Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam – Education	221,918	
	62 Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam – Health	72,810	
	63 Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara – Administration	63,073	
	64 Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara – Agriculture	57,805	
	65 Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara – Education	299,072	

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	NET SUM GRANTED	
		CURRENT	CAPITAL
<i>all figures G\$'000</i>			
66	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara – Health	118,204	
67	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Administration	90,958	
68	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Agriculture	77,130	
69	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Education	329,540	
70	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica – Health	49,456	
71	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice – Administration	62,198	
72	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice – Agriculture	43,871	
73	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice – Education	130,142	
74	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice – Health	48,555	
75	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Administration	90,080	
76	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Agriculture	75,758	
77	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Education	318,971	
78	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne – Health	230,080	
79	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Administration	84,765	
80	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Agriculture	3,403	
81	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Education	67,474	
82	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni – Health	49,412	
83	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Administration	27,023	
84	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Agriculture	0	
85	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Education	26,221	
86	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni – Health	8,461	
87	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Administration	52,218	
88	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Agriculture	9,203	
89	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Education	67,692	
90	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo – Health	48,576	
91	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Administration	36,006	
92	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Agriculture	10,944	
93	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Education	181,173	
94	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice – Health	33,825	
519	Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development – Sea Defences		1,963,000
520	Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development		2,825,400
521	Ministry of Public Works – Road Construction, Rehabilitation & Studies		1,500,100
517	Guyana Water Authority		171,800
518	GUYWA – Water Supply Improvement		375,000
522	Ministry of Local Government		6,000
531	Region No.1 Barima/Waini		20,936
532	Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam		130,500
533	Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara		220,104
534	Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica		71,600
535	Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice		83,500
536	Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne		142,400
537	Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni		39,100
538	Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni		17,100
539	Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo		26,900
540	Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice		111,000
PUBLIC DEBT			
95	Public Debt		1,000
GRAND TOTAL \$		15,845,857	15,100,361