

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 86TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1997) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1997

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (44)

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

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., 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 of Local Government

*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

*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 Local Government

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 Local Government

*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 Information

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

***Non-elected Member**

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, 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., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 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 - Pomeroun/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)
 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.
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Amna 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. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)
 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 - on leave)
 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.

(There is one vacancy)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.
Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic
Organs)

(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 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) New Year Greetings

As that was the first sitting for this year, the Speaker welcomed Members and extended best wishes to them for 1997.

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) Resignation of Dr. Kenneth F.S. King

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter dated 28th December, 1996, from Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, resigning his seat in the National Assembly, with effect from 1st January, 1997.

With his resignation, Dr. King had, in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) of article 156 of the Constitution, vacated his seat in the Assembly.

The Speaker stated that, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Dr. King's name was included, to further extract from the said list the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, extended good wishes to Dr. King.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Miss Joan Richards, up to the end of February.

(iv) Death of Mr. I.R. King, former Assistant Clerk of the Legislature

The Speaker announced that he had learnt that Mr. Ingram Randolph King, a former Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, died in the U.S.A. on the 29th December, 1996, at the age of 92 years.

Mr. King was the first holder of the Office of Assistant Clerk of the Legislature which was first created with the new Constitution in 1953. He served in that Office and as a Table Officer from 4th May, 1953, to 8th February, 1955.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, expressed deep regret at his passing.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Senior Minister of Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure
of Guyana for the financial year 1997.

(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 1997 at the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, 17th January, 1997.

(Notice Paper No.105(M85 Govt 70) published 10.1.97)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

**MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1997
(1997 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 1997.

The Senior Minister of Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1997 of the total sum of \$35,387,034,000, excluding \$14,518,402,000, which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The Senior Minister read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.45 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, 27th January, 1997.

Distribution of Documents

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

- (i) Motion by the Senior Minister of Finance for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1997.
- (ii) Budget Speech by the Senior Minister of Finance for 1997.
- (iii) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure for 1997.
- (iv) Capital Projects Profiles for 1997.
- (v) Programme Budgeting Pilots for the Ministries of Education and Health for 1997.

D.C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

17th January, 1997

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue 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 revenue and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1997 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 1997-01-17;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1997, of a total sum of thirty-five billion, three hundred and eighty-seven million and thirty-four thousand dollars (\$35,387,034,000), excluding fourteen billion, five hundred and eighteen million, four hundred and two thousand dollars (\$14,518,402,000) 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 of finance.



.....
Bharat Jagdeo
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
1997-01-17

(II)

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
		PRESIDENT		
	01-01	Office of the President	498,901	
	01-02	Guyana Defence Force	1,285,785	
	01-03	Guyana National Service	170,201	
	01-04	Ministry of Information	104,500	
501		Office of the President		426,260
513		Ministry of Information		30,000
		PRIME MINISTER		
	02-01	Office of the Prime Minister	21,495	
		PARLIAMENT		
	03-01	Parliament Office	57,249	
		CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES		
	04-01	Office of the Auditor General	68,618	
	04-02	Office of the Ombudsman	1,978	
	04-03	Public and Police Service Commission	12,315	
	04-04	Teaching Service Commission	9,191	
	04-05	Public Prosecutions	15,287	
	04-06	Public Service Appellate Tribunal	2,133	
	04-07	Elections Commission	27,041	
	04-08	Public Utilities Commission	21,592	
505		Constitutional Agencies		35,300
		LEGAL AFFAIRS		
	05-01	Ministry of Legal Affairs	12,644	
	05-02	Supreme Court of Judicature	83,571	
	05-03	Magistrates	55,026	
	05-04	Attorney General	33,273	
	05-05	Official Receiver	7,575	
	05-06	Deeds Registry	15,287	
514		Ministry of Legal Affairs		157,950
		FOREIGN AFFAIRS		
	06-01	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	826,693	
506		Ministry of Foreign Affairs		18,300
		HOME AFFAIRS		
	07-01	Ministry of Home Affairs	27,984	
	07-02	Ministry of Home Affairs - Police	1,260,002	
	07-03	Prisons	214,625	
	07-04	Police Complaints Authority	1,483	
	07-05	Fire Protection Services	92,398	
	07-06	National Registration Centre	421,315	
	07-07	General Register Office	21,499	
507		Ministry of Home Affairs		149,850
		AGRICULTURE		
	08-01	Ministry of Agriculture	68,845	
	08-02	Crops and Livestock Division	433,664	
	08-03	Lands and Surveys Division	36,221	
	08-05	Hydrometeorological Division	82,244	
	08-06	Fisheries	12,097	
508		Ministry of Agriculture		1,091,900

(III)

G\$'000		SCHEDULE		NET SUM GRANTED	
DIVISION	HEAD			CURRENT	CAPITAL
NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES				
510		Ministry of Agriculture - MMA 111			40,000
512		Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery			10,800
		HEALTH			
	09-01	Ministry of Health		574,645	
	09-02	Ministry of Health - National Hospitals		1,007,906	
	09-03	Ministry of Health - Other Health Programmes		365,061	
516		Ministry of Health			323,000
		EDUCATION AND CULTURE			
	10-01	Ministry of Education and Cultural Development		580,746	
	10-02	Nursery Schools		100,069	
	10-03	Primary Schools		236,179	
	10-04	Secondary/Multilateral and Community High Schools		379,211	
	10-05	Technical and Vocational Schools		112,701	
	10-06	Practical Instruction Centres		16,731	
	10-07	Teacher Training Institutions		125,890	
	10-08	Resource Centre		49,219	
	10-09	Department of Culture		66,358	
542		Ministry of Education - Primary Education Improvement Programme			1,023,500
543		Ministry of Education and Cultural Development			415,800
		LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY			
	11-01	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security		1,367,897	
502		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security G/Town Remedial & Sewerage Project.			375,000
503		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security- SIMAP			1,183,202
504		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.			31,000
517		Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security - GUYWA.			10,000
518		Min. of Labour, Human Services & Social Security - Water Supply.			1,028,809
		FINANCE			
	12-01	Ministry of Finance		2,521,085	
	12-02	Accountant General Department		488,958	
	12-03	Customs and Excise Department		168,796	
	12-04	Inland Revenue Department		263,755	
526		Ministry of Finance			2,588,860
		TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY			
	13-01	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and industry		147,271	
528		Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry			14,825
		PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
	14-01	Ministry of Public Works and Communications		351,305	
	14-02	Ministry of Local Government		80,765	
	14-03	Civil Aviation Department		236,954	
	14-04	Region 1 - Barima/Waini Administration		64,914	
	14-05	Region 1 - Barima/Waini Agriculture		7,133	
	14-06	Region 1 - Barima/Waini Education		111,635	
	14-07	Region 1 - Barima/Waini Health		41,312	
	14-08	Region 2 - Pomeroron/Supenaam Administration		62,048	
	14-09	Region 2 - Pomeroron/Supenaam Agriculture		39,048	
	14-10	Region 2 - Pomeroron/Supenaam Education		223,820	
	14-11	Region 2 - Pomeroron/Supenaam Health		76,409	

G\$'000

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES		NET SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
14-12	Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	Admin.	77,852	
14-13	Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	Agriculture	64,981	
14-14	Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	Education	268,507	
14-15	Region 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	Health	131,609	
14-16	Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica	Administration	76,850	
14-17	Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica	Agriculture	71,916	
14-18	Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica	Education	352,433	
14-19	Region 4 - Demerara/Mahaica	Health	49,510	
14-20	Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice	Administration	65,766	
14-21	Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice	Agriculture	43,916	
14-22	Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice	Education	148,356	
14-23	Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice	Health	54,214	
14-24	Region 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne	Administration	85,357	
14-25	Region 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne	Agriculture	85,798	
14-26	Region 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne	Education	307,707	
14-27	Region 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne	Health	267,955	
14-28	Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni	Administration	87,782	
14-29	Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni	Agriculture	4,091	
14-30	Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni	Education	79,026	
14-31	Region 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni	Health	54,638	
14-32	Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni	Administration	36,115	
14-33	Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni	Education	49,268	
14-34	Region 8 - Potaro/Siparuni	Health	13,577	
14-35	Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	Administration	50,583	
14-36	Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	Agriculture	8,016	
14-37	Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	Education	71,241	
14-38	Region 9 - Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo	Health	46,170	
14-39	Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice	Administration	48,034	
14-40	Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice	Agriculture	13,262	
14-41	Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice	Education	208,594	
14-42	Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice	Health	48,651	
519	Ministry of Public Works and Communications	- Sea Defences		1,770,000
520	Min. of Public Works and Communications			2,246,220
521	Min. of Public Works	- Road Construction, Rehab. & Studies		1,860,200
522	Ministry of Local Government			500,500
531	Region 1	Banima/Waini		35,800
532	Region 2	Pomeroon/Supernaam		187,500
533	Region 3	Essequibo Islands/West Demerara		205,420
534	Region 4	Demerara/Mahaica		110,500
535	Region 5	Mahaica/Berbice		143,000
536	Region 6	East Berbice/Corentyne		209,800
537	Region 7	Cuyuni/Mazaruni		54,210
538	Region 8	Potaro/Siparuni		61,900
539	Region 9	Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo		46,300
540	Region 10	Upper Demerara/Berbice		158,000
		PUBLIC DEBT		
15-01	Public Debt			1,000
		GRAND TOTAL \$	18,843,328	16,543,706