

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (1990/1991) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1991

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, U.R., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (60)

Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. Viola V. Bwinham, U.R., M.P., Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

- +* Cde. K.S. Massiah, U.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

- + Cde. W.A.L.H. Parvus, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister
Planning and Development (Absent on-leave)
- ♦ Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities

Senior Ministers (8)

- Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning and Development
- + Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism (Absent)
- + Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
- Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Bern, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President
- * Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education
- * Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works

Ministers (8)

- + Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development
- + Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister of Labour and Co-operatives
- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities
- * Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- Cde. Stella Udie-Ali, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Culture and Social Development (Absent on-leave)

+ Cabinet Member

* Non-elected Member

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira

Other Members (26)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., (Absent)
 Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
 Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.
 Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.
 Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Ewina Mexville, M.P.
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P., (Absent on-leave)
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
 Cde. Cyrilida A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. K. Sankar, A.A., M.P.,
 Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
 Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
 Cde. P.E. Rockcliffe, M.P.

(There are two vacancies)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
 Cde. P. Singh, J.P., M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P., (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P., (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P., (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P., (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 Cde. E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Island/West Demerara)
 Cde. I. Ally, M.P., (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Cde. M. Stephens, M.P., (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Cde. Ajoohia, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Cde. D. Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Minority (10)(i) People's Progressive Party (8)Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Other Members

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip (Absent)
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., (Absent)
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, A.A., M.P., (Absent)

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

(Vacant)

OFFICER

Cde. M.B. Henry, Acting Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Broadcast of Budget

The Speaker informed Members that in accordance with the usual practice, he had given permission to the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast live the Budget presentation which would be made by the Minister of Finance on that day. The Corporation had also been given permission to record for subsequent broadcasts speeches which would be made by other Members of the National Assembly at the other sittings during the Budget debate. Such subsequent broadcasts would however, have to be made in accordance with the approved practice, i.e., the time used for the broadcast of speeches would have to be allotted to the Members of the Assembly in the proportion to the Party representation in the Assembly.

(ii) Public Address System and Video

In addition permission had been given for the installation as usual of a public address system for the Budget and for the Visual Productions Centre to be represented to cover the Budget.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Parris from 20th February to 2nd March, 1991,
- (b) Cde. Persico from 18th to 23rd February, 1991 and
- (c) Cde. Cumberbatch from that day's sitting.

(iv) Resignation of Cde. Leroy Scotland

The Speaker informed Members that he had received a letter from Cde. Leroy Scotland, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister tendering his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 31st January, 1991.

(v) Filling of Working People's Alliance Vacancy

The Speaker announced that with the resignation of Mr. Eusi Kwayana from February 2, 1991 a seat in the Assembly had become vacant and that on 7th February, 1991, 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 from which Mr. Kwayana's name had been extracted, to further extract from the said List, the name of a person to fill the vacancy.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1991.
- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary Agricultural Development Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1989.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTERSuspension of Standing Orders

The Minister of regional Development 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 Minister of Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 1991, at the sitting of the Assembly on Wednesday, 20th February, 1991.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First ReadingELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 6/1991

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Representation of the People Act and the Election Law (Reform) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1991

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 1991.

The Minister of Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for the Financial year 1991 of a total sum \$16,688,916,000 excluding \$12,737,415,000 which is chargeable by law (See APPENDIX).

The Minister read the Budget Speech and thereafter named Monday 25th February, 1991 as the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion.

ITEM 2 - EXPULSION OF CDE. ISAHAK BASIR, M.P.

The Minister of regional Development indicated that he would not proceed with the above item at that sitting.

The Speaker observed that it was desirable for Cae. Basir to receive a copy of a motion of an amendment to the notice by the Minister of Regional Development before the Assembly proceeded upon the motion. He instructed the Clerk to send a copy of the amendment to Cae. Basir.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.52. p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to Monday, 25th February, 1991.

S. Narain
 S. NARAIN
 Speaker
 91-02-25

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
 PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
 GEORGETOWN.

1991-02-25.

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 1991 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 1991-02-20;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1991, of a total sum of sixteen billion, six hundred and eighty eight million, nine hundred and sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,688,916,000), excluding twelve billion, seven hundred and thirty seven million, four hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$12,737,415,000) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarized in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect to finance.

..... Carl B. Greenidge (Sgd.)
Carl B. Greenidge
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
1991-02-20

SCHEDULE

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	DESCRIPTION OF HEAD all figures G\$'000	SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
		PRESIDENT		
	1	Office of the President	141,738	
	2	Guyana Defence Force	322,803	
	3	Guyana National Service	65,200	
	4	Public Service Ministry	375,261	
501		Office of the President		85,157
503		Public Service Ministry		0
		PRIME MINISTER		
	5	Office of the Prime Minister	109,045	
502		Office of the Prime Minister		23,380
		CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES		
	7	Parliament Office	5,960	
	8	Office of the Auditor General	16,607	
	9	Office of the Ombudsman	180	
	10	Public and Police Service Commissions	3,522	
	11	Teaching Service Commission	1,301	
	12	Public Prosecutions	2,095	
	13	Public Service Appellate Tribunal	448	
	14	Elections Commission	71,300	26,742
505		Office of the Auditor General		0
542		National Elections Commission		0
		LEGAL AFFAIRS		
	15	Ministry of Legal Affairs	1,189	
	16	Supreme Court of Judicature	12,475	
	17	Magistrates	8,104	
	18	Attorney General	7,348	
	19	Official Receiver	1,776	
	20	Deeds Registry	1,650	
513		Public Service Appellate Tribunal		0
514		Ministry of Legal Affairs		0
		FOREIGN AFFAIRS		
	21	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,068,142	
506		Ministry of Foreign Affairs		2,513
		HOME AFFAIRS		
	22	Ministry of Home Affairs	8,853	
	23	Police	296,331	
	24	Prisons	36,970	
	25	Police Complaints Authority	339	
	26	Fire Protection Services	18,245	
	27	National Registration Centre	39,248	
	28	General Register Office	2,688	
507		Ministry of Home Affairs		48,869
		AGRICULTURE		
	29	Ministry of Agriculture	9,300	
	30	Crops and Livestock Division	142,569	
	31	Lands and Surveys Division	8,350	
	32	Hydraulics Division	2,317	
	33	Fisheries Division	1,640	
508		Ministry of Agriculture		1,360,480
510		Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III		72,331
512		Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery		205,833

SCHEDULE (con't)

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	DESCRIPTION OF HEAD all figures G\$'000	SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
		HEALTH		
	34	Ministry of Health	89,535	
	35	National Hospitals	164,783	
	36	Other Health Programmes	81,384	
516		Ministry of Health		457,686
517		Guyana Water Authority		263,963
		EDUCATION AND CULTURE		
	37	Ministry of Education and Culture	1	
	38	Ministry of Education	250,565	
	39	Nursery Schools	11,154	
	40	Primary Schools	33,138	
	41	Secondary/Multilateral and Community High Schools	40,287	
	42	Technical and Vocational Schools	26,674	
	43	Practical Instruction Centres	3,503	
	44	Teacher Training Institutions	19,852	
	45	Resource Centre	13,760	
	46	Ministry of Culture and Social Development	34,953	
	47	Department of Culture	10,453	
515		Ministry of Culture and Social Development		137,047
+ 522		Ministry of Education, Environment and Food Policy		151,837
		LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY		
	48	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security	1	
	49	Child and Family Welfare Division	1,992	
	50	Ministry of Labour	59,080	
	51	Ministry of Co-operatives	7,399	
504		Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security		1
* 524		Ministry of Labour		0
529		Ministry of Co-operatives		0
		FINANCE		
	52	Ministry of Finance	2,039,403	
	53	Accountant General Department	150,272	
	54	Customs and Excise Department	33,969	
	55	Inland Revenue Department	59,205	
	56	Statistical Bureau	6,465	
526		Ministry of Finance		4,463,827
527		Ministry of Finance - Human Resources Development Programme		576,947
		PLANNING		
	57	Ministry of Planning	32,703	
525		Ministry of Planning		285,995
		TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY		
	58	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry	1	
	59	Ministry of Public Utilities	103,419	
	60	Ministry of Trade and Tourism	3,121	
* 521		Ministry of Public Utilities		150
528		Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry		2,059

SCHEDULE (con't)

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	DESCRIPTION OF HEAD all figures G\$'000	SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
		PHYSICAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
61		Ministry of Physical Works, Communications and Regional Development		1
62		Civil Defence Commission		696
63		Ministry of Communications and Works	162,868	
64		Plant Maintenance and Hire Division		0
65		Civil Aviation Department	76,154	
66		Ministry of Housing		0
67		Ministry of Regional Development	32,234	
68		Region No.1 Barima/Waini - Administration	27,216	
69		Region No.1 Barima/Waini - Agriculture	6,323	
70		Region No.1 Barima/Waini - Education	11,141	
71		Region No.1 Barima/Waini - Health	4,682	
72		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Administration	15,875	
73		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Agriculture	9,046	
74		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Education	18,263	
75		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam - Health	11,757	
76		Region No.3 Essequibo Isls/West Dem. - Admin.	10,436	
77		Region No.3 Essequibo Isls/West Dem. - Agri.	14,475	
78		Region No.3 Essequibo Isls/West Dem. - Education	69,319	
79		Region No.3 Essequibo Isls/West Dem. - Health	21,159	
80		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica - Administration	24,836	
81		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica - Agriculture	30,135	
82		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica - Education	49,205	
83		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica - Health	40,906	
84		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Administration	18,900	
85		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Agriculture	10,666	
86		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Education	17,848	
87		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice - Health	17,973	
88		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Admin.	45,408	
89		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Agri.	28,727	
90		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Educ.	45,865	
91		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne - Health	78,824	
92		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Administration	10,770	
93		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Agriculture	1,671	
94		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Education	7,611	
95		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni - Health	5,312	
96		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni - Administration	10,720	
97		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni - Agriculture	1,203	
98		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni - Education	3,875	
99		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni - Health	1,279	
100		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper E'bo - Admin.	6,723	
101		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper E'bo - Agri.	2,056	
102		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper E'bo - Educ.	7,945	
103		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper E'bo - Health	3,962	
104		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice - Admin.	6,977	
105		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice - Agri.	2,339	
106		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice - Educ.	15,797	
107		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice - Health	3,194	
518		Ministry of Communication and Works		1,238,105
519		Plant Maintenance and Hire Division		0
520		Ministry of Physical Works, Communications and Regional Development		1

SCHEDULE (con't)

DIVISION NUMBER IN CAPITAL ESTIMATES	HEAD NUMBER IN CURRENT ESTIMATES	DESCRIPTION OF HEAD all figures G\$'000	SUM GRANTED	
			CURRENT	CAPITAL
530		Ministry of Regional Development		24,813
531		Region No.1 Barima/Waini		3,159
532		Region No.2 Pomeroon/Supenaam		15,774
533		Region No.3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara		133,708
534		Region No.4 Demerara/Mahaica		4,977
535		Region No.5 Mahaica/Berbice		10,485
536		Region No.6 East Berbice/Corentyne		7,864
537		Region No.7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni		3,642
538		Region No.8 Potaro/Siparuni		660
539		Region No.9 Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo		4,739
540		Region No.10 Upper Demerara/Berbice		5,724
541		Ministry of Housing		17,081
		PUBLIC DEBT		
	108	Public Debt	929	
GRAND TOTAL			7,053,367	9,635,549