

# National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN Part I of III**

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18th Sitting

14:00h

Friday 16 February 2007

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## **MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)**

### ***Speaker (1)***

**The Hon Hari N Ramkarran SC, MP - (AOL)**

*Speaker of the National Assembly*

### **Members of the Government (42)**

#### **People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)**

#### **The United Force (1)**

The Hon Samuel A A Hinds MP

*(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)*

*Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications*

The Hon Clement J Rohee MP

*Minister of Home Affairs*

The Hon Shaik K Z Baksh MP

*Minister of Education*

The Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey MP

*Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation*

The Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy MP

*(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)*

*Minister of Health*

The Hon Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett MP

*(R# 9 - U Takutu/U Esseq)*

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

*Minister of Amerindian Affairs*

\*The Hon Dr Ashni Singh MP

*Minister of Finance*

\*The Hon S Rudolph Insanally OR, CCH, MP -

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

The Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt MP

*Minister of Housing and Water*

The Hon Robert M Persaud MP

*(R# 6 - E Berbice/Corentyne)*

*Minister of Agriculture*

The Hon Dr Jennifer R A Westford MP

*(R#7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)*

*Minister of the Public Service*

The Hon Kellawan Lall MP

*Minister of Local Government and Regional Development*

\*The Hon Doodnauth Singh SC, MP

*Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*

The Hon Dr Frank C S Anthony MP

*Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport*

The Hon B H Robeson Benn MP

*Minister of Transport and Hydraulics*

\*\*The Hon Manzoor Nadir MP

*Minister of Labour*

The Hon Priya D Manickchand MP

*(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)*

*Minister of Human Services and Social Security*

The Hon Dr Desrey Fox MP - (AOL)

*Minister in the Ministry of Education*

The Hon Bheri S Ramsaran MD, MP

*Minister in the Ministry of Health*

\*Non-elected Minister \*\*Elected Member from TUF

The Hon Jennifer I Webster MP

*Minister in the Ministry of Finance*

The Hon Manniram Prashad MP - (Absent)

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

*Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce*

Mr Donald Ramotar MP

The Hon Gail Teixeira MP

Mr Harripersaud Nokta MP

Mrs Indranie Chandarpal MP

Ms Bibi S Shadick MP

*(R# 3 – Essequibo Is/W Demerara)*

Mr Mohamed Irfaan Ali MP

Mr Albert Atkinson JP, MP

*(R# 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)*

Mr Komal Chand CCH, JP, MP

*(R# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)*

Mr Bernard C DeSantos SC, MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Mrs Shirley V Edwards JP, MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Mr Mohamed F Khan JP, MP

*(R# 2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)*

Mr Odinga N Lumumba MP

Mr Moses V Nagamootoo JP, MP

Mr Mohabir A Nandlall MP

Mr Neendkumar JP, MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

\*\*\* Mr Steve P Ninvalle MP

*Parliamentary Secretary*

Mr Parmanand P Persaud JP, MP

*(R# 2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)*

Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury CCH, JP, MP

*Parliamentary Secretary*

\*\*\*Non-elected Member

\*\*\*Mrs Pauline R Sukhai MP

*Parliamentary Secretary*

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

Mr Dharamkumar Seeraj MP - (AOL)

Mr Norman A Whittaker MP  
(R# 1 - Barima/Waini)

### **Members of the Opposition (28)**

#### **(i) People's National Congress Reform 1-Guyana (22)**

Mr Robert HO Corbin

*Leader of the Opposition*

Mr Winston S Murray CCH, MP

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl MP

*Deputy Speaker, performing duties of Speaker of the Nat. Assembly*

Mr E Lance Carberry MP - (AOL)

*Chief Whip*

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer MP

Mr Anthony Vieira - (Absent)

Mr Basil Williams MP

Dr George A Norton MP

Mrs Volda A Lawrence MP

Mr Keith Scott MP

Miss Amna Ally MP

Mr James K McAllister MP

Mr Dave Danny MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Mr Aubrey C Norton MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Mr Ernest B Elliot MP

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Miss Judith David-Blair MP

*(R# 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)*

Mr Mervyn Williams MP

*(Re# 3 - Essequibo Is/W Demerara)*

Ms Africo Selman MP

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

Dr John Austin MP

*(R# 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)*

Ms Jennifer Wade MP

*(R# 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)*

Ms Vanessa Kisooson MP

*(R# 10 - U Demerara/U Berbice)*

Mr Desmond Fernandes MP

*(Region No 1 – Barima/Waini)*

**(ii) Alliance For Change (5)**

Mr Raphael G Trotman MP

Mr Khemraj Ramjattan MP

Mrs Sheila VA Holder MP

Ms Chantalle L Smith MP - *(AOL)*

*(R# 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)*

Mr David Patterson MP

**(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild (1)**

Mr Everall N Franklin MP

***OFFICERS***

Mr Sherlock E Isaacs

*Clerk of the National Assembly*

Mrs Lilawatie Coonjah

*Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly*

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**PRAYERS**

*[The Clerk reads the Prayer]*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Death of Mr George Fung-on, former Minister of the Government**

Honourable Members, it has been brought to my attention that Mr George Fung-On, a former Minister of the Government and a Member of Parliament died this morning at 05:30 H. I will ask Honourable Members to stand; let us observe one minute silence in honour of Mr Fung-On.

*[Members stand in silence for one minute]*

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

**MOTION**

**BUDGET SPEECH - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF  
THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2007**

**Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to  
consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year  
2007**

**The Chairperson:** We are now in Committee of Supply and  
we will now proceed in accordance with the Sub-Committee's  
Resolution and Schedule. Will Members kindly get Volume 1?

Pages 26 and 27

**AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme  
011 - Head Office Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$ 1,250,269,000 for  
Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 011 - Head  
Office Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - If you look at the Staffing Details on Page 27 at the bottom, you will see that the contracted employees are eighteen and my question to the Honourable Member, if he can inform this House, (not who are these employees - not names) but what functions, what are their offices that they hold - their portfolios?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in respect of the question asked, there are eighteen positions of contracted employees which include the position of the:

- Permanent Secretary
- Technical Assistant
- Two Secretary Typists
- Two Research Assistants
- Two Pool Attendants
- Three Drivers
- Assistant Secretary
- Research Officer
- Store Keeper and
- Assistant Field Auditor

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question, Mde Chairperson. Did I hear correctly the Hon Minister said



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Secretary Typists are contracted employees? I just need a clarification on that.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Yes.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mrs Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - if the Hon Minister responsible can tell this House how many vehicles are we catering for here?

**The Chairperson:** Is that under Fuel and Lubricants?

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Yes

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, the fleet of vehicles comprised of fifty vehicles. It includes a vehicle used by the Presidential Guard; the Presidential escort fleet; the vehicles of two former Presidents - Mr Arthur Chung and Mrs Jagan; vehicles in the administrative fleet - six if them and vehicles used by advisers.

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - is this a carry-over expenditure from the previous year or is this expenditure going to be on another building?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, this is maintenance; this entails a number of activities:

- The Swimming Pool at the Castellani House Compound; chemicals and maintenance of that pool is met there;

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- It entails plumbing work to the Office Complex, the State House;
- Routine maintenance; electrical works; carpentry works; retiling of floor and repairs to the Presidential Guard Barracks.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Can I go to Account Code 6281 - Security Services - which is on page 27? I see here a figure of \$5,772,000 budgeted for security services for the office of the president and I would be happy if the Minister could share with the Honourable House, which security service because I am under the impression that the Office of the President is secured by the Members of the Guyana Police Force or special guard services.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** In response to that question, despite the fact that the Presidential Office complex is secured by ranks of the Presidential Guard, the services of RK is contracted to provide security to the Castellani Swimming Pool compound. Also in accordance to that security services are provided to the residences to the Presidential Advisers and Ministers. Private Security firms are contracted for those, Presidential Guard is meant to deal with the locations of the Office of the President and to provide security to the Honourable Prime Minister and His Excellency the President.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question on the same Account Code: Could the Hon Minister then indicate to us, how many places ... you said Castellani House or the

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Swimming Pool and you started to speak about Presidential Advisers, could you inform the Honourable House how many residences are being covered by this \$5,772,000 to RK Services?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Five residences.

**The Chairperson:** Go ahead Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, under Rental and Maintenance of Buildings, could the Hon Minister mention these buildings and for what purposes are they rented?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, government pays the rental of several government Ministers, who occupy government flats in Achillibar Villas and I think there is also rental for two new ministers also.

**The Chairperson:** Go ahead, Mr Norton ...

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Mde Chairperson, if the Honourable Member can tell us, if one looks at Account Code 6111 ... let me go that over again, when you look at the total wages and salaries of the entire Office of the President and when we look at Contracted Employees 6116, we see that the contracted employees are consuming more than thirty percent of all the resources there, while at the same time ... *[Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** What is your question?

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** The question is why are so few employees have gotten so large a proportion of the resources? What explains it?

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**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in response to that question, the persons employed under contracts are meant to support the work of the Office of the President; they are technical persons and they complement the skills pool in the Office of the President.

**Mr Aubrey A Norton:** A follow-up question to the Honourable Member - I remember in your first answer, unless you are making secretaries technical special skills; you suggested that there were secretaries there, could you explain the contradiction between the two answers.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Those Secretary/Typists I referred to are assigned to Presidential Advisers, so they are not public servants

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - could the Hon Minister responsible inform us what dollar amount of this allocation will go towards external scholarships; how many students will benefit and which country's scholarship will be offered?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, we have students studying in Cuba; there are going to be approximately 900 students; last year the largest amount - 616 students in Cuba. It is intended this year that in excess of 150 students will go to Cuba. We currently have students studying programmes in Malaysia, Mexico, India - these are short programmes - China, Russia, Brunei, Indonesia and to fund persons on Commonwealth programmes, New Zealand programmes and the Canada/Commonwealth Programmes.

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**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, the same Account Code, will any of the scholarships being offered be in the area of climatic change since it is an important aspect now.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, as it relates to the policy for Commonwealth scholarship, it depends on what the governments of those respective countries offer to Guyana. As it relates to the Cuban Scholarship Programme the fields are quite clear. Our students are offered scholarships in the fields of medicine, dentistry, agriculture, veterinary medicine, agronomy, engineering and forestry.

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, may I repeat my question; it is either yes or no. Is the government offering any scholarship out of this fund for the studies of climatic change?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** My answer to the question would be no at this point in time.

**Mr Aubrey A Norton:** A follow-up question - In the light of the fact that Guyana is a low-lying coastal State, the question is why Guyana doesn't consider training people... *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** What Code number?

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** It looks like 6302. The question is does the government considers it necessary in the circumstance to ensure that training and if not, why it was not catered for?

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister ...

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**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** I think that is an issue that will have to be debated and it is a policy decision.

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - In keeping with the many events we were told that will be held here in Guyana, I am somewhat confused as to the large decrease in the allocation of the amount?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in response to the Honourable Member's question, I know that we are not dealing with Programme 2, a sit relates to the activities hosted this year by Guyana in which the President will have to host a number of activities. Those amounts will be catered for under Programme 2, not Programme 1.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - when we turn to Page 378 where there is a list, we see the National Parks Commission \$87,815,000 and we that for last year the revised budget shows the figure of \$83,900, 000 my question to the Hon Minister can she indicate to this Honourable House whether all that money being given to National Park, she is satisfied as to the level of maintenance and cleanliness of the National Park.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, we are considering the Estimates here and I think the question asked by the Honourable Member, I would not be able to answer her as it relates to that.

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, if I can perhaps rephrase my question so that the Hon Minister could understand, is the Hon Minister satisfied that the Government of Guyana is getting value for their money having given the National Parks \$87,815,000, are they satisfied that they are getting value for money that is that the National Park is being maintained at an acceptable standard?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, might I enlighten this Honourable House; the sums voted for the National Park, not only entails the National Park, it is meant for the staff of the Guyana Zoological Park, the Joe Vieira Park, the Kaieteur National Park and the Botanical Gardens. The subvention voted here is only a portion of the National Park budget, Government provides a portion and they have to generate enough revenues to meet the additional demands of the operations of the National Parks Commission.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Can the Hon Minister Indicate whether the National Parks Commission is required to give a breakdown at the end of every year as to how the money is spent and if so, is the Minister satisfied with the breakdown hence leading to the continued subvention of the National Parks Commission?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** The National Parks Commission is required by law to have their accounts audited and laid in this National Assembly. I think that there is a number of audit reports awaiting the Auditor General's approval and issuance and as soon as these are finalised they will be laid in this Honourable House.

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**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mr Murray ...

**Mr Winston S Murray:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister kindly inform the National Assembly as to what are the miscellaneous receipts of \$86,408,000 to be earned by the Environmental Protection Agency?

**The Chairperson:** What Code?

**Mr Winston S Murray:** Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - of which the Environmental Protection Agency is listed to get \$86,000,000.

Secondly, in respect of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, could the Hon Minister kindly inform the National Assembly how much of the \$39,931,000 for employment cost with respect to that agency is related to the emoluments of the Director of the IAST and what are in fact the specific emoluments?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** In response to the Honourable Member's question as it relates to the EPA, those receipts relate to the revenues collected from the Wildlife Fund as a result of Wildlife Export.

As it relates to the other question pertaining to the IAST, a small portion of the sum voted meets the emoluments of the Director. The Director's monthly salary is approximately \$300,000 per month.

**Mr Winston S Murray:** Mde Chairperson, a follow-up with respect to the EPA. Could the Hon Minister inform the National Assembly whether it is correct to infer from her answer that the



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revenues earned by the Wildlife Unit are all paid to the Environmental Protection Agency?

With respect to the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, are there any other sums apart from the \$300,000 that are paid to the Director of the IAST, who I understand is a non-resident person

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in response to that question, as far as I am aware there is no other sums paid to the Director. Government provides the Director with a vehicle to which the expenses are met by that Agency and that is the only expenditure I am aware of.

As it relates to the EPA, I think by law the operations of the Wildlife and the EPA were meant to be merged as a requirement and this has been highlighted several times by the Auditor General and the revenues there are meant to be projected within the EPA's budgetary allocation.

**Mr Winston S Murray:** Mde Chairperson, the Minister does not have to answer my question; my question is very specific - Could the Hon Minister inform the National Assembly whether as a matter of fact the monies collected by the Wildlife Unit are in fact paid over to the Environmental Protection Agency? That is my specific question.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** As far as I know, yes.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Account Code 6284 - Other - which comes under the sub-heading of Other Goods and Services

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Purchased, we see here a figure for last year \$68,390,000 and again for this year \$68,700,000, could the Hon Minister be kind enough to share with this Honourable House some of the major items under this very vague heading Other?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** In response to that question, under Account Code 6284, where the sum of \$68,700,000 is budgeted, the cost of printing the Official Gazette - those Gazette that we get right here at the National Assembly - and those Acts are paid for by the Office of the President. It also includes payments for Internet Fees provided to the Office of the President. Also from that Subhead is met certain repairs to office furniture, et cetera. Payment is met to the support staff provided to Guyana Water Incorporated to support the operations of the Swimming Pool. The staff is working on a shift and the Office of the President is billed for the services by the Guyana Water Incorporated. That expenditure is met from that Subhead.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question - Could the Hon Minister be kind enough to indicate of that \$68,700,000, what figure is used for the publishing and printing of the Official Gazette

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, \$60,000,000, the majority of that figure.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, I am going down the line to Account Code 6294 - Other - and I just want to thank the Hon Minister, because it is now clear to me how much money indeed the Gazette cost and that is why these questions are asked; not to pry and to probe, but to inform us.

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Going down to Account Code 6294, which is another *Other*, would the Hon Minister be kind enough to say from that figure that is budgeted for \$30,300,000, what are the two largest items that will be captured under that head.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in response to that question, the largest item under Account Code 6294 meets the electricity charges of Judges and holders of constitutional posts such as the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. This is something that has been going on for more than twenty years. The Chancellor of the Judiciary, all the electricity charges for those persons are met under this Subhead 6294 - Other.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I am a bit late in getting up. I am sorry. Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - Could the Hon Minister say no money is being given to Amerindian Organisations?

Hon Jennifer I Webster: I do not think that that falls within the ambit of the Office of the President any longer. That subvention now falls directly under the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. You will have to redirect your question.

**Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 011 - Head Office Administration - \$1,250,269,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 28 and 29

## BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007

### **AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$225,509,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - I see from the Staffing Details on Page 29, Contracted Employees for this year fifty-six and my question to the Hon Minister - I do not want to ask her all fifty-six, but could she indicate to us to office that attracts the highest payment and the office that attracts the lowest payment of those fifty-six contracted employees - not the names the offices?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** The office that attracts the highest payment is the Head of the Presidential Secretariat under that Subhead and the lowest payment is the Assistant Archivist.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Of course, my next question would be ... I do not need the name of the person ... bust could the Hon Minister tell me what is the figure for the highest and the lowest?

**Mr Winston S Murray:** My question is pertaining to the one being asked by the Honourable Member Mrs Backer: Could the Minister kindly provide to the National Assembly a breakdown of the information showing the persons who were paid as

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contracted employees and their associated emoluments which lead to the figure of \$177,889,000, since I believe it is proper that the National Assembly be given this information.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson that information could be made available.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, my question is still on the floor and my question specifically is: Could the Hon Minister tell this Honourable House, what is the annual or monthly figure of the highest paid person and the lowest paid?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, the highest paid is \$519,000; the lowest paid \$130,000

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Is that per month or per year?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** ... *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - the question is similar to the one I asked before, who are the beneficiaries of these services?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** The persons here are political advisers. In addition to that under this Subhead they pay for electronic monitoring and the surveillance at the residences of Ministers.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary - Could the Hon Minister inform this Honourable House which security service

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and as I do not want to get up again, how many political advisers are benefitting under this head?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** More than seventy-five percent of the monies voted here meets the cost of electronic surveillance monitoring activities at the residences of ministers and the two companies are GEB and MMC. It is also a matter of national security for me to be giving additional information.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, under Account Code 6294 - Other - Could the Hon Minister just clarify for us what entails Other?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, as I said earlier, under this Subhead there is a number of international activities being held in Guyana shortly; the President will be required to host a number of receptions for the visiting Heads coming to attend the RIO Summit. Part of the money is there is meant for the hosting of Presidential functions and receptions. It is also meant to meet the upkeep of the State House functions; provide gift items and so on that the President would give to visiting Heads from this Subhead.

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, just to find out if the Account Code above that 6293 - Refreshment and Meals - does nor deal with that.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, the expenditure for refreshment and meals is totally different. It deals with meals for Cabinet meetings and other meetings hosted from time to time.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, just a clarification - Is the Minister saying that the amounts under Account Code 6294 - Other - catering for those programmes - national events which she informed this House will now be under Programme 2? If that is so, then may I ask why the splitting of this expense?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, I think it is a portion to activities as programmed and it is best placed, because under the Programme - Presidential Adviser Services - it is the expenditure related to the activities of His Excellency the President.

**Mr Aubrey A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, on the same Account Code 6294, she indicated that there will be three major activities - could the Honourable Member tell us why there is a lesser expenditure this year, when there are going to be three activities over and above last year when they did not have such activities?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, last year under this particular activity, there were a number of functions hosted by the President and in addition to that a number of receptions were held including the swearing in activity of the President to which that service was contracted out. In addition to that expenditure related to items purchased for functions, gifts, et cetera, are met there

**Agency 10 - Office of the President, Programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - \$225,509,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 32 and 33

### **AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 014 - Public Policy and Planning**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$190,000,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 014 - Public Policy and Planning - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 10 - Office of the President, Programme 014 - Public Policy and Planning - \$190,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 390 and 391

### **AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$741,707,000 for Agency 01- Office of the President - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...



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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Page 390 Project Code 3400600 - National Parks Commission - we see a sum of \$15,000,000 capital expenditure and when we look at Volume 3 Page 7, it speaks about purchase of vehicle, purchase of tractor, et cetera. My question is could the Honourable say what is the nature of the vehicle? Is it a 4X4, a jeep or is it a car?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** It is to purchase a re-conditioned pick-up and that sum will also entail the purchase of a tractor.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, a supplementary - Could the Hon Minister please indicate whether this re-conditioned pick-up is for use within the office or for personal use of the Head of the National Parks Commission.

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, I do not have that information.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 1700100 - Minor Works - Looking at the Project Profile, could the Hon Minister give us some of the activities that are referred to as humanitarian?

**Hon Jennifer I Westford:** Mde Chairperson, I think the Minor Works vote is utilised to meet projects and humanitarian programmes identified by His Excellency the President. I would not be able to provide any more details on that.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Winston Murray ...

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**Mr Winston S Murray:** Mde Chairperson, on that same Project Code - Could the Hon Minister inform this National Assembly as to whether \$75,000,000 is expended solely at the President's discretion or whether there is a group that takes decision on this matter or is it in his unilateral domain?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, His Excellency the President gives approval for any expenditure under this Project Code.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, I am going to Page 391, the sole item there, Project Code ... - Lands and Surveys - we see a figure of \$10.9 million and when we look at the Profile, we see a classification of Critical and the description says the Project entails the provision of topographical occupation and cadastral surveys. My question is seeing that it is critical, it means that we need to do it immediately - Could the Hon Minister say which areas these surveys are earmarked for?

**Hon Jennifer I Webster:** Mde Chairperson, in response to the question the cadastral surveys for which the funding of \$10.950 million have been earmarked will be used for Regions 3, 9 and 10 to demarcate the areas which include Western Hog Island in Region 3; Kwakwani Water Front, Ituni and Hururu in Region 10.

**Agency 01 - Office of the President - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$741,707,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 62 and 63

**AGENCY 09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION, Programme 091 - Public and Police Service Commission**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$43,394,000 for Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 091 - Public and Police Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Can the Hon Minister say what are the areas of employment and whether these individuals are local persons or they are expatriates?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, it includes a PPO, a Driver, an Assistant Development Officer and a Secretary to the Commission. I am advised that they are all national Guyanese. I have not seen their passports, but I am so advised. *[Laughter]*

**Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 091 - Public and Police Service Commission - \$43,394,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Page 398

**AGENCY 09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$963,000 for Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission - Capital Expenditure - \$963,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**Pages 66 and 67**

**AGENCY 10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$48,343,000 for Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr George A Norton ...

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**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Hon Minister tell us under total wages and salaries paid who are these contracted employees?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** They are all local people - Two Confidential Secretaries, two Drivers and one Personal Assistant to the Chairman of the TSC.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Could the Honourable Prime Minister be kind enough to inform this Honourable House which Security Service? I think, Mrs Chandarpal can answer that question for me.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that it is the Special Constabulary.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Are these scholarships in foreign countries or are they local?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that this covers local training opportunities for the staff of the Teaching Service Commission.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

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**Mr Mervyn Williams:** A follow-up - Could you say in what specific areas?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I think it is those opportunities that come along the year and are considered relevant to the Members of the Teaching Service Commission.

**Dr George A Norton:** A follow-up - Could the Hon Minister be a little more specific.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, before the Honourable Prime Minister ...

**The Chairperson:** Is it a follow-up on the same question?

**Mr James K McAllister:** Could he say what are the opportunities that came up last year?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I have been advised that during last year a number of people went on IT training.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Account Code 6284 - Other Goods and Services Purchased - We see a figure of \$2,049,000 - Could the Honourable Prime Minister be kind enough to inform the Honourable House of the largest two items under that Heading Other?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I think seventy percent of it goes towards advertisement that the teaching Service Commission puts in the media from time to time.

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**Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission - \$48,343,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson: Page 399**

**AGENCY 10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,785,000 for Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$3,785,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson: Pages 70 and 71**

**AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, Programme 111 - Elections Commission**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$875,465,000 for Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 111 - Elections Commission - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Basil Williams ...

**Mr Basil Williams:** Mde Chairperson, may I refer you to Account Code 6241 - Rentals of Buildings - I see a large sum over \$12, 000,000 - could I inquire if it is in contemplation for house-to-house registration or house-to-house verification.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, this is for the rental of the KP Thomas Building following the fire of last year that building has been leased.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally ...

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, 6116 - Contracted Employees - I see this year there is an increase in the number of contracted employees, could the Minister say what categories of people are going to be contracted?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** The contracted employees include all of the senior staff and contracted officers for the registration offices all around the country.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, if I could perhaps with your leave and I am sure to have the leave of the Honourable Prime Minister to lump Account Codes 6111 and



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6117 (seven heads) when we look at the Staffing Details, we see a total of 276 employees; my question is if the additional staff that is anticipated to be required for local government elections in 2007, are they provided in these 276 employees.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** The Local Government Elections would be met mainly from Programme 112 on the next page.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6283 - Cleaning and Extermination Services - we can see that the amount allocated has increased by five times. Could we have an explanation for this?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, this is to account for the additional twenty-seven offices around the country that have been brought into service.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Account Code 6134 - National Insurance - Could the Minister say why there is a decrease, when I noted that those persons other than contracted employees have increased especially at Clerical and Office support. Why there is a decrease in NIS payments?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** There is a reduction in the staff and so there is a reduction in the NIS.

**The Chairperson:** Yes Mrs Lawrence ...

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**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** A follow-up, Mde Chairperson - When I look at the Staffing details here, there is an increase not a decrease from 262 to 276 and when I look particularly at the allocation at 6114, I see an increase and those are not contracted employees.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that the numbers here may be at a particular time, but they are corrected at this time in terms of the number of employees. The 2006 number was inaccurate.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I am very glad that the Honourable Prime Minister has been so frank; can the Honourable Prime Minister share with this House what is the accurate figure?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** The answer is being revised; there was a larger number up to October last year and then it was reduced to the number at 2006 about the 1 October, but earlier in the year, there were up to 400 people in the employ of this Commission.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams ...

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Could the Hon Minister advise us if this is a follow-up from the same question of the Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence, how in the event of an increase in overtime rates as well as the institution of a shift system, could the value of the expenditure reduce?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Which Code?

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**Mr Mervyn Williams:** I am referring to the same question from Mrs Volda Lawrence - Account Code 6134.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I do not think it is relevant to shift system and National Insurance.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Dave Danny ...

**Mr Dave Danny:** Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Last year it was seventy-five, this year seventy-seven, which is an increase taking into consideration last year was election year. How came there is an increase?

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Prime Minister ...

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that for the earlier part of last year, there were people taken on to advance continuous registration and subsequently in October those numbers were reduced.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, under Staffing Details - COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Honourable Prime Minister say if any of these contracted employees were foreigners?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** All locals.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, I am seeking guidance initially, because when I asked the question and I got the Prime Minister's leave to compress Account Codes 6111 and

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6117 into one and I asked about the additional staff the Honourable Prime Minister said and I have to reason to doubt him that that was coming under the next head. But the next head is Account Code 6112 on the next page. There is no staff at all according to the Staffing Details, so I am just flagging that Prime Minister, because I will ask when we get to that page.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Alright.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I do not want to surprise you; you have been very honest.

**Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 111 - Elections Commission - \$875,465,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 72 and 73

**AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, Programme 112 - Elections Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$517,241,000 for Agency 11- Elections Commission, Programme 112 - Elections Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, my question as I have already indicated to the Honourable Prime Minister, could he share with this House how the Staffing Details showed that there is no people employed in 2006 or employed now as we speak when he just indicated to this Honourable House that the staff for elections 2006 would be reflected there?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that at such time that the decisions are taken and it has been determined who and what level and how many are required, they will be retained at that time.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Honourable Prime Minister say what areas and where?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** This training usually applies to training for running of the Elections. So it is local training.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, the Honourable Prime Minister in his answer in relation to the Honourable Member Mrs Backer's compressed question said that when the time comes decision will be made. Now I looked at 2006 and I see no one there. So could the Honourable Prime Minister explain this; did the time come for holding of elections in 2006.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Yes, I am told that the practice of the Elections Commission is to pay people under Account Code

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6294. So you will see in 2006 some \$601,000,000 was paid basically in wages.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Volda Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings - May I ask for what purpose these buildings are rented?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Polling Stations, I am thinking some 1,400/1,500.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Volda Lawrence ...

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, I follow up on Account Code 6241- Rental of Buildings - with Account Code 6281 - Security Services - since 6241is for buildings for polling purposes and if we look at the significant decrease in the security services which I am quite sure would have been extended to those polling places, could the Honourable Prime Minister say what is the reason for the disparity?

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Prime Minister ...

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I am told that some of the security is supplied by the police and it is not paid for by GECOM that is the security at the polling places on the day of polling, but we still have some security services here. The reduction, I guess when the time comes again and the need is seen some approaches would be made to cover whatever cost is required.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6222 - Field Materials and Supplies - could the Honourable Prime Minister say if this allocation is to cover the cost of house-to-house registration or verification, if not which head covers this activity?

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Prime Minister ...

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, no decision has been made as yet as how to proceed house-to-house or otherwise.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Norton ...

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Account Code 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - if one looks at it, one sees that ... the question is coming ... *[Interruption]*

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Which item number again, may I ask?

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Account Code 6282 - the budgeted sum for 2006 was \$4,950,000 then the actual revised was \$645,000, now you are budgeting \$3,100,000. In an election year when you revised it was less, what explains in terms of trends this upward movement.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I have been advised that on this Account Code 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - the provisions made there for the servicing of computers, printers, fax machines air conditioning units and other office equipment; we do not

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have an answer at this time. We do not have an answer at this time to as why the figure shown here is much reduced for 2006?

**The Chairperson:** Yes Mr Norton ...

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Could I ask that the Honourable Members ensures that he provides this House with the Information including the explanation of the trend.

**Hon Samuel A.A Hinds:** I can provide an answer now to Account Code 6282 that equipment maintenance was low in 2006, because a lot of the equipment came in new at that time and did not need servicing or all of the equipment came in new.

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Mde Chairperson, to the Prime Minister, the specific question I asked was noting the trend, why is it in the new Estimates cognisance is not taken of the trend and a more realistic figure is utilised. To say that it was new equipment will not be able to explain that.

**Hon Samuel A.A Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I am advised that these were sought and believed to be reasonable provisions in the current circumstances of the Elections Commission.

**Agency 11 - Elections Commission, programme 112 - Elections Administration - \$517,241,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Page 400



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**AGENCY 11 - GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION -**  
**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$20,000,000 for Agency 11 - Guyana Elections Commission - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, the one item Project Code 2501000 - Guyana Elections Commission - the Legend says construction of fence and purchase of furniture and equipment and when we look at the Profile Page - Page 40 in Volume 3, we see here construction of concrete fence and then purchase of certain things. My question is what sum of that \$20,000,000 has been earmarked for the erection of the concrete fence?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, \$10,000,000 for the fence; fifty filing cabinets \$5,000,000; twelve desk tops copiers \$3,000,000; fifty book shelves \$750,000; twelve UPS \$350,000.

**Agency 11 - Guyana Elections Commission - Capital Expenditure - \$20,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 218 and 219

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**AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,523,368,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - \$3,523,368,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$160,600,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force - Capital Expenditure, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force - Capital Expenditure, Agency Totals - \$160,600,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**AGENCY 57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN,  
Programme 571 - Ombudsman**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,323,000 for Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 571 - Ombudsman - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, permission once again, through you to the Honourable Prime Minister to compress Account Codes 6111 to 6117 and if we look at the Staffing Details we see a total of six employees. My question is can the Prime Minister justify to the National Assembly, the Office of the Ombudsman having a staff of six persons when for years we have had no Ombudsman?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, we continue to look for an Ombudsman and we have the staffing here for such a time as we would find an Ombudsman.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr George Norton

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - we have an increase from 2006 to 2007 of \$3,000,000, but when we look at the Staffing Details the

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temporary employee remains at one. My question is, is it the same person and this increase is due to an increase in wages?

**Hon Samuel A.A Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I am advised that there is a cleaner in permanent employment and when the cleaner goes on leave then a temporary employee does the cleaning.

**Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 571 - Ombudsman - \$12,323,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Page 428

### **AGENCY 57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE -Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$580,000 for Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, the one item on that Agency, we see a provision of \$580,000 and when we look at the Profile in Volume 3, we see the project includes the purchase of computer, cabinets, fans, chairs and microwave and my very serious question is why are we maintaining an office and

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spending this type of money when no efforts are being made to appoint or to find an Ombudsman?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, the Honourable Member seems to be speaking from a position that no effort is being made to find an Ombudsman, well I do not know that and these facts stand for themselves. These are preparations for the case that we have someone coming to be Ombudsman.

**Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$580,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 236 and 237

**AGENCY 58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, Programme 581 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,692,000 for Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 581 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister

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**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6011 - Statutory Wages and Salaries - I would just like to ask which officer/officers is covered by this Code and also why no money was expended in 2006?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** This is the payment for the positions of the three members of the Tribunal, the Chairman and two others.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Basil Williams

**Mr Basil Williams:** Mde Chairperson, the same item, will the Honourable Prime Minister inform us why they have not constituted for seven years the Members of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I am not too sure that that is an appropriate question; we have the money here to have them and at this point of the Budget process, we are looking at the money provided. The money is provided here.

**Mr Basil Williams:** Mde Chairperson, a follow-up question - a previous answer by the Honourable Prime Minister purported to give a reason why there is no Ombudsman that they are looking for one. So the Honourable Prime Minister could probably answer this question which is similar. You have been budgeting for the Public Service Appellate Tribunal Members, the question is could you account for several years now, you have not appointed or constituted the Tribunal.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I think that was the subject of the debate that we have just concluded. I think now we are looking at the financial ... *[Interruption]*

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**The Chairperson:** This is the financial side of things, Mr Williams.

Yes, Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, on the same item, I think in 2006 this Honourable House allocated \$6,671,000 for a particular activity. The government spent none of it; the government is now coming again to ask the Honourable House for \$6,857,000; it is in order for this side to inquire of the government why or what efforts they are making to correct the lapses that they in 2006. I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Prime Minister what efforts are being made.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I think again that question being put was the substance of the debate. At this time, we focus on the numbers that are being put here.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, I am not compressing this time, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when we look at the Staffing Details on Page 237, we see contracted employees two and my question to the Hon Minister, what are the portfolios of these two contracted employees?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** One is the Registrar and one is the Confidential Secretary.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, a follow-up question - Confidential Secretary to what or to whom?

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**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** To the Chairman of the Tribunal.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I am moving off of that, but I am still on the Head - National and Other events - a very, very small sum \$14,000, my question is what was done for this \$14,000. I expect it may have been to put up some flags around Mashramani time. I am just seeking clarification.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Prime Minister

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Yes, you were very perceptive - for flags and buntings for times of celebrations.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, could I then ask the Honourable Prime Minister if the fact that nothing has been budgeted means that we have taken care of the flags and we will re-use then for this year.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Yes, I can say so.

**Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, programme 581 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$16,692,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

**The Chairperson:** Page 429



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**AGENCY 58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,100,000 for Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$1,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

Pages 36 and 37

**AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, Programme 012 - Prime Minister's Secretariat**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$95,432,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 012 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, a decompress question - Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when we look at Page 37, we see for this year ten earning a total of \$9,983,000, I do not want the Hon Minister of Finance to say

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that my math is not right. Could the Honourable Prime Minister share with this Honourable House the designation of the most senior in terms of payment and the most junior in terms of salaries for those contracted employees?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** The highest are the PAS, Personal Assistant, Special Assistant and the lowest are pool Attendant and Handyman.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account 6134 - National Insurance - when I looked at the Staffing Details, I note that COA 6111 is now zero and COA 6115 is now reduced from nine to six, yet this Account Code shows a significant increase. Could the Honourable Prime Minister explain?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** I am advised that at the time of preparing the Budget, there was a few more employees at the residence of the Prime Minister and at this time they are a few less, but in a few months or two people may be hired into those posts.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - could the Honourable Prime Minister say what are the local organisations that the subsidies and contributions are made to?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** It is the Lethem Power Company.

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**Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 021 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - \$95,432,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Page 392

**AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$506,000,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister - Capital Expenditure, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, could the Honourable Prime Minister say which areas have been completed under this programme - Sorry, I think about the Electrification Programme here?

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, I do not have those at hand, I think we have spoken of them a number of times, but I do not have them at hand and I do not want to call from memory and be inaccurate, but we have given them from time to time.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I will accept the Prime Minister's response even though I would have liked him

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to be prepared. However, I wish to ask a slightly different question and hope that the Prime Minister will be able to answer from memory here. As it relates to the areas completed, could the Prime Minister give this Honourable House an average or an estimate of the percentage of houses that have taken up connection and in fact if he can also tell us what is the cost for a household to connect onto the system.

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Chairperson, it is not a budgetary question, but I think I could answer it. It is too low, I do not want to say what the number is, because I have to negotiate with some people to get the programme going, but it is too low. In terms of cost, I think we have also said at times how much it costs for people to get on to the UAP. There is a big savings, but I do recognise that people are claiming that even though the costs are reducing tremendously that many savers still find difficulty ...

**Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister - Capital Expenditure, Agency Totals - \$506,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 54 and 55

**AGENCY 07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE, Programme 071 - National Assembly**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$695,994,000 for Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 071 - National Assembly - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 071 - National Assembly - \$695,994,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**AGENCY 07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$32,000,000 for Agency 07 - Parliament Office - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 07 - Parliament Office - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$32,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

Page 397

**AGENCY 08 - AUDIT OFFICE - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,800,000 for Agency 08 - Audit Office - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

**Agency 08 - Audit Office - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$12,800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 118 and 119

**AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 311 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$206,059,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 311 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings - I see \$15,000,000 is provided here, could the Hon Minister say which building is rented here and for what purpose?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

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**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I think these refer to buildings for the Supreme Court and the Legal Aid Clinic, part of the Maraj Building and the Croal Street Building.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, under Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations, could the Hon Minister kindly inform us what are these organisations?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, these items refer to the contributions we have to make to the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the International Maritime Organisation, the AIR RASUS, the CTO and the REDISH.

**Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 311 - Ministry Administration - \$206,059,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 120 and 121

**AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS Programme 312 - Public Works**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$256,514,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 312 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

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**Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 312 - Public Works - \$265 514,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

Pages 122 and 123

**AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 313 - Communication and Transport**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$38,905,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 313 - Communication and Transport - stands part of the Estimates.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Staffing Details - COA 6112 - Senior Technical - I see there is one person here employed. Could the Hon Minister say who is the person? *[Interruption: 'Name!']* No, no, what designation that is expending \$38,000,000?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, this expenditure refers to one person and it is for an Aviation Inspector,

**Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 313 - Communication and Transport -**



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**\$38,905,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 409 and 412

**AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed is proposed that the sum of \$7,417,100,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure -Agency Totals - stands part of the Expenditure.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Demerara Harbour Bridge - Could the Hon Minister say if all the deck plates on the bridge are being changed or if it is just selected set of plates.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I believe there are somewhere around 40,000 deck plates on the Demerara Harbour Bridge.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, apparently the Hon Minister of Agriculture is distracting the Hon Minister of Public Works, because the question I asked was if all the deck plates have been replaced.

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

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**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I think one deck plate is \$300,000 and for us to replace 40,000 deck plates, I do not think that there will be money in any part of the budget or any other activity. We are attempting to replace 100 deck plates which are critical areas at the moment. *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, we are devolving into this ravel house again. I do not know what is going on. We are dealing with figures and the likes here. I think we need to focus and concentrate ... *[Interruption]* ...Mr McAllister, I am speaking, would you please...

Hon Minister are you finished with you response?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes, Mde Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, in relation to the pontoons, could the Hon Minister say if these pontoons are special pontoons for the retractor span or if it is just any of the other matter of the bridge?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, these are the regular pontoons which are being replaced.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say what is the projected cost of the pontoons as against the projected cost of the deck plates?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, it is \$40,000,000 for one pontoon and I do not think that there is any nexus between the deck plates and the pontoons.

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**Mr James K McAllister:** I did not say nexus; I just want to know.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** There isn't any.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer:

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Could I ask a question? Of the \$90,000,000 that has been allocated, could the Hon Minister say what portion of the \$90,000,000 is going to be used for the two large pontoons and what portion will be used for the replacement of the deck plates as provided by Page 80 of Volume 3?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson: \$80,000,000 will be applied towards the pontoon and \$10,000,000 for the deck plates. It is simple calculation.

**The Chairperson:** I will now put the question.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson ...

**The Chairperson:** What is going on?

**Mr James K McAllister:** There are more items that we have not looked at, Mde Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** But Mr McAllister, if you do not ask the questions expeditiously I will take it that there are no other questions.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Okay, my apologies, Mde Chairperson.

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**The Chairperson:** Okay, Mr McAllister, if you want to ask a question please stand so that I can see you.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Can I ask all of them off the bat? The Berbice River Bridge - Mde Chairperson, it is stated here again \$500,000,000 is being spent for the provision of the approach roads, can the Hon Minister say of this contract has been finalised, if so, what is the contract sum?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, there is not a finalised contract; this is being worked on at the moment.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, in connection to this same sum of \$500,000,000, I see it is being provided for from donor funds; could the Hon Minister say under which project or which loan these funds are coming from.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, this comes under a loan from the IDB Bridges II Project.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say how much money is provided under the IDB Bridges II Project for this activity?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, it is US \$11.6 million which have been provided for.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson could the Hon Minister say if US \$11.6 million is available under this Head, why only \$500,000,000 has been budgeted here.

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**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, some is being spent for supervision and feasibility studies.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson - Road Safety - that is under Bridges, yes, could the Honourable say what is the activity that is envisaged under this Head. I noticed he was buying motor cycles not too long ago.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** With respect to Road Safety and I believe he is referring to the routine maintenance management systems, the road signage, the road markings, the provision of equipment also too for the Guyana Police Force are covered under that provision.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 1201900 - Infrastructural Development - and the Legend says completion of tarmacs and construction of driveway, when we look at Page 82 in Volume III, we see this project entails the completion of tarmacs at Mon Repos and Lusignan and construction of the drive way at the International Conference Centre. My question Hon Minister is what portion of this \$14,300,000 figure is being used or has been identified or earmarked for the construction of the driveway?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, \$1.7 million is the amount provided for the construction of the driveway.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

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**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 1207100 - Mahaica - Rosignol Road/ Studies - I wish to inquire whether these approach roads are the Georgetown approach roads.

**Hon HB Robeson Benn:** Yes, Mde Chairperson. This is a provision for the southern approach road from Grove to Mandela Avenue.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson - Weight Control Programme - I notice that no money was spent in 2006, I wish to ask the Minister if he is experiencing some capacity problems at his Ministry in this regard and if so what he is doing to ensure that this does not re-occur in 2007.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Last year we had a protest to the award of the contract; we have re-tendered and I think last week Tuesday, the bids were opened and just now we will be selecting the new contractor and by the second quarter of this year, we will the scales substantially in place.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 1207200 - Admin and Management - a very simple question for information - could the Honourable say if the sums allocated here cover the salaries or the payments to contracted employees.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes, Mde Chairperson. The Work Services Group consists of contracted employees.

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**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, we will now turn to Page 410; the Capital Expenditure, it runs from Page 409 to Page 412, so we will take all the pages and then put the question.

We are now on Page 410.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mr Chairperson, Project Code 1207800 - West Demerara/Four Lane Road - I seem to be a bit confused here.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, while Mr McAllister ... to give him a slight break, could I respectfully ask ... Project Code 1207900 - NA/Moleson Creek Road - and it says here NA which I presume means New Amsterdam/Moleson Creek Road and if we go across, we see the Legend says provision for road construction and studies - IDB. However, when you look at the Capital Project Profile 87, the description includes provision for studies of the Demerara River crossing and urban and rural transport. So I am just wondering if the Hon Minister can assist, because it seems according to the Project Code entitlement to be dealing with New Amsterdam to Moleson Creek Road, yet when you look at the Capital Project profile, it speaks about provision for studies of the Demerara River Crossing and Urban and Rural Transport; if perhaps we can have some clarification on that.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes Mde Chairperson, these are provisions under the loan. We are developing an integrated road transportation and river transportation network and there are certain aspects which have to fit in with respect to determine

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how it all fits together and what is the total capability of the system.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, it has reported to this House previously that the Four Lane Road was substantially completed [*Interruption: 'Which Code?'*] I am speaking here of Project Code 1207800 - Four Lane Road - but I see here now that we are budgeting additional sum for this activity. I wonder if the Hon Minister can explain.

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes, Mde Chairperson, I think I answered previously to a question, wherein I referred to an extension of the contract. We had extended the four lane road on the East Bank of Demerara to Providence to accommodate the traffic management and requirements for the stadium and so we have an extension and a one-year period after that for maintenance.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, if my memory serves me correct I would want to think that this Parliament was previously informed that this extension would have been constructed using savings from the Demerara Harbour Bridge to Mandella Avenue and so my question still stands, why the need for this additional money if the works were substantially completed as reported to the Honourable House.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I think I refer to savings under the loan - the specific portion of the loan.



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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Project Code 1400300 - Dredging - Equipment - we see here a figure of \$100,000,000. When we look at the Legend, it says rehabilitation of vessels, dredging of rivers and purchasing of spares.

Profile ... Page 90 ... There are three things listed here, the second one being rehabilitation of the MV Seaman and the split barge. My question for the Hon Minister, is how much from that \$100,000,000 is going toward the rehabilitation of the MV Seaman? I have never heard of it, to be very frank, and the split barge ...

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, the Seaman is a crane barge and is needed for the dredging operations and for the construction of wharves, stellingings and so on; \$40,000,000 is identified for the docking of the Seaman.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** And what about the split barge?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** \$35,000,000

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mc Allister

**Mr James K Mcallister:** Mde Chairperson, as it relates to the Demerara Harbour Bridge and the feasibility studies, could the Hon Minister say what is the status of these studies if anything has been done in terms of seeking consultants or whether Louis Berger is being considered for this job?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** I do not know which item he is referring to.

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**The Chairperson:** What Code Mr McAllister?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairpeson, I am not clear as to what item the Honourable gentleman is referring to.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson ...

**Mr David Patterson:** A follow-up - with reference to the question just asked, Project Code 1207009 and when you check the Capital Project Profile the second item listed there - provision of studies for the Demerara River Crossing and urban and rural transportation, could the Hon Minister provide further details on the Demerara River Crossing and urban and rural transportation?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** We have not done any updated study on the Demerara River Crossing as yet, it is provided for under this arrangement.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Judith David-Blair

**Mrs Judith David-Blair:** Mde Chairperson, I see in Project Code 1401500 - Bartica/Issano Road - where there is \$20,000,000 for rehabilitation of critical sections of the road and structures; can the Minster say what part of Bartica and how much of this money is allocated for Bartica?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

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**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, all of the money is identified for Bartica and it is for the area One to Five Miles, Bartica.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Project Code 1401800 - Miscellaneous Roads - for the purpose of the Records can the Hon Minister say what is the procedure they used for identifying roads to be rehabilitated or constructed under this Code?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I think I did say what was done or what is the procedure during the debate. However, I will repeat myself; what is done is that there is general knowledge based on the evaluations and the monitoring surveillance done by the engineering groups of the condition of the roads. The NDCs and the Regional Authorities would submit to the Ministry listings of the roads with the priorities as they see them. There are evaluations which are conducted by the Work Services Group as to what the final priority should be, what the scheduling and amounts which are appropriate based on inspections. There may be from time to time specific requests with regard to critical situations where responses would have to be made and basically that is the basis based on the resources, the condition and the timing that there is, as to the priorities for the overall scheduling the decision making as to how the roads are done.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, the specific request just mentioned by the Hon Minister, could he say what is the procedure for that, where it goes, direct to the Ministry or to the NDC or to the RDC? *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, I am sure that the Minister is capable and could you please let him answer.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I think I spoke about request coming in from the NDCs and from the Regional Democratic Councils. I would also have to say that we are not the only agency which does roads in the country; there are other agencies of government which do roads, but the requests coming into the Ministry and we determine the priorities.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 1500402 - Emergency Works - I note here a very large sum of \$750,000,000, could the Hon Minister why these areas are being considered emergency works since he said during the debate that these works are programmed.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** They are emergency programmed works. We have a large amount of work to be done with respect to the response to the condition of the sea defences and they are programmed here.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to ask the Hon Minister under Project Code 1402100 - Traffic Lights - whether or not provision has been made for the corrective works

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to be done on the roads that have been dug up under this heading.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** The corrective works are being done as we speak. After the road cuts are made in a day or two, a separate group comes along and fills back in the cuts with asphalt.

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** A supplementary question - will the Hon Minister tell me whether or not that corrective work looks permanent or satisfactory to him?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Those that I have seen up to last night, many of these works that are done are permanent. You may be referring to delays; there have been some delays, because at times they have some upsets in the production of asphalts and also based on the great demand for asphalt, but they are coming along behind the works and putting in what are intended to be permanent works.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Could the Hon Minister say if there exist arrangements where competent technical personnel are inspecting and approving these works.

**The Chairperson:** What Project Code are you talking about, Mr McAllister?

**Mr James K McAllister:** Traffic Lights - Project Code 1402100 - a follow-up to the previous question by the Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder, whether these works

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are being inspected by competent technical personnel and approved.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** I am happy to report that we have competent and technical persons who are employed by our agency and they are out there day and night inspecting the works, supervising the works and making sure that the work done is acceptable.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I am back to Project Code 1500402 - Emergency Works - I wish to ask the Hon Minister since these works are programmed if the sea defence and river defence at La Retraite is included in this set of work here.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I do not see La Retraite schedule here. I said that we have programmed emergency works; I note that maybe he has a special interest in La Retraite and I thank him for his interest if it is indeed that there is a special need for emergency works to be done at La Retraite ahead of any other area here, we will be happy to do so it is substantiated by our technical validation.

**The Chairperson:** We will now move to Page 411

Yes Mrs Backer, go ahead please.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 260100 - Navigational Aids - third from the bottom on Page 411, \$25,000,000, the legend says rehabilitations of buoys and beacons and when we look at then Capital Project Profile, we see here the project entails rehabilitation of buoys and beacons, not particularly helpful. I wonder if the Hon Minister would be

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kind enough to indicate which are the areas not every single area, but first of all where are the areas and these navigational aids that have been rehabilitated, on an average, what percentage of the total buoys and beacons are we talking about? Are we repairing ten/ twenty, fifteen percent/fifty percent and why no girls?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, these relate generally to the navigational aids coming in to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and to the Ogle Airport. I think I did report during the debate that we were setting out to garner a rather large sum of money to significantly improve the overall navigational aids and management systems at the airport.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question, Madame. I am always happy to learn is the Hon Minister saying that we have buoys on the approach to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. I would be happy to learn.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, is the Honourable Member referring to Project Code 1600100?

**The Chairperson:** What is the Project Code?

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** The one that I just asked - Project Code 260100

**The Chairperson:** Page 411- the third from the bottom, Hon Minister

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** This in fact refers to buoys and beacons for maritime navigation.

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Just for clarification, the Hon Minister in answer to my question and I was very specific if nothing else, I referred him to 106 of the Capital Project Profile and the question I asked was where were these buoys and beacons and he said it was to do with the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. I then ask him a supplementary question, were the buoys also in regard to the approach of the Cheddi International Airport? So I need clarification.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** But I did correct myself; I did say that they were for maritime aids.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Just for clarification, so then this head has nothing to do with beacons at the Cheddi Jagan Airport. That is what I want to clarify.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** That is what I clarified.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Thank you very much.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Could the Hon Minister say with respect to Project Code 1500403 - Essequibo and West Demerara - how much for the sum provided is for the Touschen/ Met-en - Meerzorg/Dekinderen/Hague projects and how much is for the Columbia/Capoey projects?

**The Chairperson:** That is rehabilitation of sea defences in Essequibo.



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**Mr Mervyn Williams:** That is correct, Madame, I refer to Project Profile 99.

**Hon BH Robenson Benn:** I think he referred to Tuschen ...

**The Chairperson:** Project Code 1500403 - the top of the list of Page 411, Hon Minister - Rehabilitation of sea defences in Essequibo and West Demerara.

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Mde Chairperson, I do not have the specific details at the moment, I will go through my materials here and get back to the Honourable Member in a moment.

**The Chairperson:** I do not understand Hon Minister. Are you going to provide the answer in writing or....?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes, Mde Chairperson. I will provide it in writing.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Project Code 2700100 - Reconditioning/Construction of Ships - when you look at the Capital Project Profile on Page 107, we see here docking and rehabilitation of the MB Sandaka and the MT Aruka, my question to the Hon Minister is of the \$110,000,000 identified, how much is the docking and rehabilitation of each vessel estimated or projected to cost?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** \$30,000,000 for the Motor Barge Sandaka and \$30,000,000 for the Motor Tug Aruka. *[Interruption: 'What about the balance?']* The Balance of money is for spares.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say if the monies are catered for under Project Codes 2700100 and 2700200; if they constitute capital grants to the T&HD?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** Yes, these are capital grants for the Transport and Harbours Department. The Sandaka and Aruka are under Project Code 2700100 and the Malali and Torani are under Project Code 2700200.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Mde Chairperson, Project 1600400 - Stellings - the Legend says rehabilitation of stellings and wharves - Capital Project Profile 102 - could the Honourable of how of that sum id provided for Morawhanna?

**Hon BH Robeson Benn:** G\$1,000,000 is provided for Morawhanna.

**Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$7,417,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

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**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, we will proceed until 5.00p.m. I thought the first day break is at this time. We did a little savings that is what happened.

**The Chairperson:** Page 404

**AGENCY 15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - AGENCY TOTALS**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$990,000 for Agency 15 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation - Capital Expenditure - Agency totals - stands part of the Estimates.

**Mr James K Mc Allister:** Mde Chairperson, I do not know if it is appropriate, we seem not to have any current expenditure, therefore I would want to know where we can find allocation for staff and so on

**The Chairperson:** I believe that these come under one building in Foreign Affairs if I am not mistaken, which comes right after that. This is only capital expenditure.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Thank you very much.

**Agency 15 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$990,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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### **AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 041 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$658,711,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 041 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Aubrey Norton ...

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6294 - Other - Could the Hon Minister tell us what constitutes Other here?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Foreign Affairs ...

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Could I ask the Honourable Member is that question relates to Programme 1 or 2?

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** I said Account Code 6294, Page 47.

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** That would relate to Programme 1, our Headquarters and also relates to the purchase of revenue stamps for Missions and also for retainer fees for two consultants on border issues that we have.

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Account Code 6262 - Overseas Conferences and Official Visits - Could the Hon Minister tell us

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why there is no vote there for overseas conferences and official visits?

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** These conferences are covered separately under the Ministry of Finance.

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Hon Minister say why no allocation?

**The Chairperson:** I have been advised that if there is no vote, you may not question the zero sum.

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Mde Chairperson, training here is covered by the Public Service Ministry or else provided by friendly governments through scholarships.

**The Chairperson:** Mr Norton, which Account Code are you using? The rule of thumb, the convention is that if there is no allocation - zero - you may not ask a question on that.

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** Yes, I do not think that it follows therefore that I cannot ask questions to decipher what is happening in training, for instance I am about to ask in terms of the needs of the Ministry. *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, would you please ... as I said, I did not say it is a rule, I said it is a Convention and I have been in the Parliament in the past fourteen years and that is the way we have been doing it. If there is no allocation, we have not been asking questions. If it comes up in some other area, you could perhaps ask. I think the Minister volunteered an

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answer. I do not know if your supplementary is on that volunteered answer.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6111 - Administrative - it shows an increase of salary for Administrative staff by \$15,000,000 and in the Staffing Details 6111 there is an increase of the number of persons by five. Could the Minister tell us the portfolios of these new employees?

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** These persons were not included in 2006, but are now Foreign Service Officers II.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Aubrey Norton ...

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** I go to Staffing Details, could the Hon Minister give us the broad areas of the contract employees.

**The Chairperson:** In the same Account Code.

**Mr Aubrey C Norton:** I said Staffing Details - COA 6116.

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Mde Chairman, I would like to say that in terms of Programme 1, which is related to headquarters, we have thirteen contracted workers and for Programme 2 which related to our Missions abroad, we have a total of fourteen comprising most if not all of our Heads of Missions and counsel generals.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Page 47 Account Code 6284 - Other - we see that last year, we had a revised budget of \$323,000 and we have a significant increase this year \$6,270,000, my question to the Hon Minister whom I am pleased to see is back with us; could he indicate to us what are the larger items on this figure of \$6,270,000?

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Mde Chairperson, this expenditure was previously included under Account Code 6294. I am informed that it represents here an increase in bank service charges especially for the remittance of funds which we make every month at Missions and honoraria for persons rendering services to Missions to help out at times of need during conferences and so on.

**Mr Dave Danny:** COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - there is an increase of one, can the Minister say if it is local or international?

**The Chairperson:** What is the Account Code?

**Mr Dave Danny:** Staffing Details 6116

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Mde Chairperson, the answer to that would be local employment

**Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 041 - Ministry Administration - \$658,711,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**The Chairperson:** Pages 48 and 49



# National Assembly Debates

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18th Sitting

14:00h

Friday 16 February 2007

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## **AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 042 - Foreign Relations**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,418,692,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer ...

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Account Code 6281 - Security Services - we see that the revised budget for 2006 was \$4,863,000; we see just over a hundred percent increase of \$11,728,000 and my question to the Hon Minister where and/or to whom are these security services given to.

**Hon S Rudolph Insanally:** Mde Chairperson, the question relates to the security charges which we face in certain capitals for example the latest Nikerie. So these costs relate to increased security charges at some of our Missions.

**Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations - \$1,418,692,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**The Chairperson:** Pages 50 and 51

**AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
PROGRAMME 043 - Foreign Trade and International  
Cooperation**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$85,734,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, programme 043 - Foreign Trade and International Cooperation - stands part of the Estimates.

**Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 043 - Foreign Trade and International Cooperation - \$85,734,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

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**AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS -  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$17,090,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

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**Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$17,090,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

Pages 142 and 143

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT, Programme 441 - Ministry Administrations**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$114,987,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, programme 441 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, under Account Code 6284 - Other - Could the Hon Minister say what other goods and services were purchased?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, the item referred to in 2006 this was for the purchase of the rooms at Buddy's Hotel, the Cacique Palace Suite and Banquet Hall. It was also for the provision of security services.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton

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**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say what are the designations of the two contracted employees for 2007?

**The Chairperson:** What Code?

**Dr George A Norton:** COA 6116 - Staffing Details

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These contracted employees are for the stadium, it includes grounds menx

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, this is a supplementary question to the answer given by the Hon Minister at Account Code 6284 when he indicated that \$205,175,000 largely represent rooms, I think, the Hon Minister said bought from Buddy's Hotel and also security. My question to the Hon Minister is that security services are provided under Account Code 6281. So are we saying that in addition to that head it is specifically for security services; security services are also provided for under the head - Other? Is that what you are telling the Honourable House?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Under Account Code 6284 - Other - I think the Honourable Member first raised on the expenditure of the \$205,175,000. That service was to buy the rooms and the advance at the Buddy's International Hotel and also for the Cacique Palace Suite. We also had to pay for security services and that is what is covered under that heading.

**Mrs Deborah H Backer:** Security Services for where?

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**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** This is for the entire Ministry - additional security services.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** My question then to the Hon Minister is why that couldn't have been provided under Account Code 6281 which deals with security services.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These were additional moneys required for the comprehensive provision of security.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I am coming again. Mde Chairperson, my supplementary question to the Hon Minister, I am at Account Code 6281 - Security Services - last year your budget was \$5,471,000 for security services; Revised was \$23,424,000, yet this year we see that you have gone down to \$10,053,000 for security services. My question then to the Hon Minister is he satisfied that that \$10,053,000 is sufficient to meet the cost of security services taking into account that he spent \$23,424,000 in 2006?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** The sum provided for here - \$10,053,000 would be sufficient.

**Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 441 - Ministry Administration - \$114,987,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 144 and 145

## BUDGET ESTIMATES 16 FEBRUARY 2007

### **AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT, Programme 442 - Culture**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$307,651,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 442 - Culture - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - I wish to inquire about which organisation this money is being given to.

Well, let me skip that question; the \$100,000,000 that is given to the sporting development fund ... *[Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Which Account Code?

**Mr James K McAllister:** The same Account Code 6231; if you go to the back you will see that \$100,000,000 is given to the Sports and Arts Development Fund - What is this Fund and who is administering this Fund?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** As stated this \$100,000,000 will go to the Sports and Arts Development Fund; this is a Fund that will be administered by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

**Mrs Deborah H Backer:** On that same Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations and when

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we look at Page 399, we see that according to the figures, the Theatre Guild of Guyana was given \$16,103,000 and this year, we are budgeting \$16, 858,000, my question to the Hon Minister ... Oh, sorry, it seems that I need to change my spectacles ... I am sorry that is just \$400,000, but I would still ask ... that cannot be \$400,000 ... Is it \$400,000 for the Theatre Guild? Well is that is so, my question will still remain; if the Hon Minister is satisfied that this contribution to the Theatre Guild is being meaningfully used. The reason why I asked that is because when you pass the Theatre Guild, it looks more run down every month, so I am just wondering what are the checks and balances?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** This sum will help the Theatre Guild. The Theatre Guild now has a very active Board and they are working for the rehabilitation of the theatre. That should be operational by this year.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I wish to seek your guidance here. As it relates to my previous question on Account Code 6321, whereby we have monies being given to a local organisation and I have noted that in the Estimates, there are some details for the various local organisations in terms of their budget and how they are going to spend the monies given to them, but the Hon Minister said that this local organisation is the Ministry itself. I wonder if the Minister can explain this contradiction.

**The Chairperson:** I do not know. Is this a supplementary question?

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**Mr James K McAllister:** Yes, Mde Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I am not sure that I understand the question, but I will repeat the answer that I gave to you and that is there is a special fund for the Arts which has been created and would be administered by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder ...

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** As a supplementary to the Minister - Can you say whether you are a part of the administrative body?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** The Ministry will be part of it. There would be a Board that is administering this.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton ...

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say specifically what scholarships would be available this year under Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships)?

**The Chairperson:** What is the Account Code? Could you please give the Code?

**Dr George a Norton:** 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships)

**The Chairperson:** That is on Page 145, Hon Minister ...



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**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These are scholarships that are available through bilateral relationships with the Ministry of Public Service.

**Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, programme 442 - Culture - \$307,651,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 146 and 147

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT, Programme 443 - Youth**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$265,534,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 443 - Youth - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - when we look at the Staffing Details we see that in 2006 there were seven contracted employees and this year eighty-four. That is an increase of seventy-seven employees; could the Hon Minister please share with this Honourable House what

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categories of workers these contracted employees are? What do they do; what are their main functions?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These are persons which the Ministry has absorbed from the Guyana National Service. They are now part of this Department.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Supplementary - As the Hon Minister mentioned the phrase National Service and I raised it in my debate; would the Hon Minister be kind enough to say whether his government has any intention ... [Noisy Interruption] ... It is a supplementary question, Madame. *[Pause]*

Mde Chairperson, in his answer to my question the Hon Minister introduced the entity National Service and is a supplementary question seeing that it is on the table - perhaps just at the edge of the table, but it is on the table ... at least the house is alive, I like that, I like an alive house, but in a very serious way my question is still on the table; is the Hon Minister in a position to indicate whether his government has any intention of re-introducing National Service?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Madame, do I have to answer that question?

**The Chairperson:** If you wish, Hon Minister, you may answer it. It is not a question strictly speaking.

The Honourable Member Mr Everall Franklin:

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**Mr Everall N Franklin:** I would like to ask the Hon Minister if on the same Account Code 6116, if any of the money allocated there would be spent on National Service, Ex-National Service or National Service Centres around the country.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister - the specific question.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Madame, these sums of money are for persons who have been absorbed from a dissolved organisation, they are now part of the Ministry. *[Applause]*

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, perhaps as we approach the break of five o'clock, my question is not irrelevant, Account Code 6292 - Dietary - I see last year nothing was budgeted and there was nothing in the revised budget, but this year, \$30,000,000 for dietary and I am just wondering if the Honourable Member would be kind enough to indicate to us what sum this covers.

**The Chairperson:** What sum?

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** No, what area this sum will cover? Who will benefit from this \$30,000,000 under the heading dietary?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These are for persons whom we have at the Kuru Kuru Training facility and the NOC.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Supplementary - What happened to the dietary requirements last year? Is it that they did not eat?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I think this is an error in the printing.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I am very, very grateful for that, it is always pleasantly refreshing to me, because errors are made, but I just want to know where the error was made. Is it that the error was made in the \$30,000, which would have been nought or perhaps \$30,000,000 which would have been nought or perhaps in the revised budget for 2006 that should have had a figure rather than nought? You see what I mean, where is the error likely to have been; last year or this year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister, are you answering, there are three zeros in the run-up to the \$30,000,000?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** The previous expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** I beg your pardon.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** In the previous expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Dr Norton

**Dr George A Norton:** Mde Chairperson, Staffing Details COA 6116 - Contracted Employees - could the Hon Minister say with this large increase if there any coaches in the different sports involved?

**The Chairperson:** Did you say 6116; is that the Code?

**Dr George A Norton:** Yes.

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**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Under the Youth Programme, we do not have coaches that would come under sports.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, just some clarification - Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - the Minister said this large increase was as a result of the absorption of the employees of the Guyana National Service which has been dissolved. I wish to ask, when was the effective date of the dissolution of the Guyana National Service?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I am advised that this was done in 2003. They are now being regularised, there was a process.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, well then there is need for some explanation ... Could the Hon Minister therefore say since the Guyana National Service was dissolved in 2003, between that period and now, how was the Ministry treating with the personnel if they are now being absorbed into the Ministry?.

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister ...

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** They were under another category, but they are now being brought under the Youth Department.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I am just trying to get information here.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, I understand.

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**Mr James K McAllister:** I would like to know what category; where did they come from? I would like to the Minister to tell us which category they came from last year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** You will notice that there is a Programme called Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training, which has been there for a number of years. This is Programme 445, you will see that that programme is now absorbed into Youth as one comprehensive Youth Programme, so there is no separate heading and those employees would have been under that programme 445.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Account Code 6294 - Other - on Page 147, we see a significant increase; last year \$2,325,000 budgeted for and the revised was the same, but for this year we see \$20,900,000; would the Hon Minister be gracious enough to share with the Honourable House the reason for this substantial increase?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I think that the same explanation that I give just now holds, because Programme 445 no longer exist and this is now incorporated under Programme 443, so the expenses that we would have incurred under Other in Programme 445 is now part of Programme 443.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, a supplementary - I know that we are all anxious to go to tea, but could the Hon Minister share with us the two largest items under this Code - Other - that is taking \$20,900,000?

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**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** These are stipends for 440 students for the Kuru Kuru College and expenses for NOC students or persons whom we have at NOC to get them to school.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question - the stipend for the Kuru Kuru students - could the Hon Minister indicate what is the stipend per student and indicate what period, in other words would it be a monthly or yearly figure?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I am advised it is \$1,500 and it is a monthly stipend and it is for the duration of nine months.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - these National Service servicemen and women - could the Hon Minister say where employees are stationed whether it is Papaya, Kimbia or, New Opportunity Corp?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** As you are aware the Ministry has several Departments - Finance, Administration, NOC, Kuru Kuru Training College, so these persons are in various departments across the Ministry.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I see there is a princely sum of \$8,200,000 here. There has been a lot of talk about this massive training of young people; I am wondering if this is all the money that has been allocated in this year for training of young people.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister

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**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** This is for training persons going to workshops and different small trainings that the Ministry would send persons to - skills training.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - we see a figure of \$2,120,000 and when turn to Page 379 towards the bottom of the page and I am looking straight across this time; Girls Guide's Association \$50,000 and the Boys Scout \$120,000. I just want to ask why the disparity in the contributions to the Girl Guides Association and the Boys Scout; my recollection having been a Girls Guide; they provide the same service unless it is that the Girl Guide's Association do not have as many people, but if we would get an explanation. I know it is not discrimination

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** It is not discrimination at all. This is the level of activities that these organisations have and this is what they have asked for.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Hon Minister, I have personal knowledge of the Girl Guides Association and my understanding from them is that this is a subvention that they get without asking. Is the Hon Minister saying that if they ask for more and they can show justification, they would get it? If so, I can assure you that within a week, you will get a request. It will be for 2008, but I am just asking that question, because if we go back over the years we will see that it is that figure.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** It will be considered and you the process of how we do budget.



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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Good!

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Vanessa Kissoon

**Ms Vanessa Kissoon:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarship) - I would just like to ask the Hon Minister how many young persons will receive skills training?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I think I just answered that question. I stated a number, but that varies from year to year depending on how many persons are at the Kuru Kuru College.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** I understand that in order to be able to prepare budget, the Minister and his staff would have to have some kind of estimate of the persons they project to train and that is all we are asking in this Honourable House, what is your estimate of the persons you intend to train with \$8,000,000?

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Based on our historical projection, last year we train 278 persons.

**Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 443 - Youth - \$265,534,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, it is now approximately 17:12h, but we have on the Schedule on the work to be done on Day 1 just two other items under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and then the Ministry of Education. I do not know whether Members would propose that we work on and finish and then take the break. [*Interruption: 'No, take the break.'*] It is just a proposal if Members want to work through or to take the break. Well, we take the break and come back to continue the Ministry.

**17:15H - SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

**17:52H - RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

### **In Committee of Supply**

Honourable Members, at the break we had just completed Pages 146 and 147

**Pages 148 and 149**

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**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT, Programme 444 - Sport**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$93,371,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 444 - Sport - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - I notice the Organisation happened to be the National Sports Development Council; am I correct. Could the Honourable say how many coaches will be employed using the money voted here?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport ...

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** The National Sports Commission is a subvention agency and this money is to provide for that subvention.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I know that, but I know the Hon Minister when he was asked a question previously, he said that the issued of coaches will be dealt with under Sports, so I am now asking the question. I know that it is subvention agency and the details are at the back here on Page 588 and therefore I am just asking how many coaches ...

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*[Interruption: 'He does not know.']* Well, if he does not know, say so.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, I am not sure what is the question. There is a specific Code here that has to do with a subvention to the National Sports Commission and this money is for the functioning of that Commission.

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, I would understand that if a subvention is to be made to the Commission, the Commission would have to make certain representation to the Hon Minister and his team about what it plans to do and how much money it needs and therefore on some basis the Minister will agree to some kind of allocation and on the basis of that I am asking the Minister if he is aware of how many coaches or is it that the Minister is just handing over the taxpayers' money without checking and determining what is happening?

**The Chairperson:** What Code are you asking that question on?

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, 6321

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister, I do not know if you have anything to add.

**Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 444 - Sport - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE -Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$401,700,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - Sport - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr David Patterson

**Mr David Patterson:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 4501800 - National Sports Commission - Construction Of Swimming Pool And Purchase Of Sports Gears And Equipment ... Can the Hon Minister say exactly when he referred to construction of pool ... Is this the pool alone or the pool and other associated works? Mde Chairperson is there a changing room, a pump house and all those other things included in this vote here? *[Noisy Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, please. Do you want to ask if there are any other buildings - ancillary buildings?

**Mr David Patterson:** Doe that include all ancillary works including the pool?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport.

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**Hon Frank CS Anthony:** This project is part of a multi-phase project and this is the first phase and this money is to be used for a fifty metre Olympic size pool and the changing rooms.

**Mr David Patterson:** Mde Chairperson, a supplementary question.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, go ahead ...

**Mr David Patterson:** Could the Hon Minister say where this project will be located?

**The Chairperson:** Where?

**Mr David Patterson:** Where will the pool be sited?

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister ...

**Hon Frank CS Anthony:** There are several sites under consideration right now we are discussing which is the most appropriate. It would be somewhere in Georgetown and its environs.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr David Patterson.

**Mr David Patterson:** Is the Minister saying that they have not finally identified the site? How did the Minister determine the cost for this project? I would assume, this sum voted includes the pool, the pump house, the changing room, the drive way, the fence, because obviously that should be factored in when the Hon Minister came up with his budget.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Is the Minster finished with the pool?

**Mr David Patterson:** Mde Chairperson, I asked the question and I was waiting for an answer. How did the Hon Minister determine his budgetary allocation; on what basis?

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister, how did you determine the budgetary allocation?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, obviously before we come up with this number, we must have an engineer's estimate and these things are based in engineer's estimates of what a fifty metre pool would be like, how much money it will cost; how much it will cost for the changing rooms and so forth. That is why we know that it is a multi-phase complex and in the first phase this is what we will be doing.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Mde Chairperson, a follow-up to the same Project Code 4501800, since the proposed location is not yet settled, could the Hon Minister say if this sum includes provisions for acquisition of lands and if not, is it provided for elsewhere?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** As I said again, there is a number of options that are available to us and this is what we are considering, which would be the most suitable site. These consultations are ongoing with stakeholders and it is government land.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

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**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, the Hon Minister stated that he arrived at \$60,000,000 based on the engineer's estimate, but could the Honourable Member inform this House which engineer he got to give him ... [*Noisy Interruption*] ... Alright, let me rephrase my question, because I do not want the name of anyone. Could the Hon Minister state if he does not have a location, how is it an engineer would be able to arrive at a design and give him an estimate?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** I think the Honourable Member in his last word said it *Estimate*. We estimated.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Could the Hon Minister identify for this Honourable House the options available and currently under active consideration?

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Member, what is the Code?

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** The options with respect to Project Code 4501800.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister, you said that there are several sites; I think the question is trying to tie you down to the several sites; if you can name them. I think that is what the Honourable Member is asking.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, if I could perhaps hope that I would be luckier on this same item, could the Hon Minister indicate to us three of the sites that are under active consideration, because he informed the House that there are sites



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in Georgetown and its environs under active consideration. Could he provide us with three of those sites - any three? [*Noisy Interruption*]

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Members, we have just come back, perhaps you are a bit too filled or something that you are making so much noise. [*Laughter*]

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, I hope I do not seem to be pressing the point, but would the Hon Minister perhaps be in a position to give us two of the sites that are under active consideration?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, I will provide a written answer to the Member.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Thank you very much. Mde Chairperson, if I can go to the top Project Code 1205600 - Building - Culture Centre - \$12,000,000 earmarked and the Legend says Rehabilitation of the Cultural Centre and when we look at the Capital Project Profile 132, we see the description being the project entails the renovation of roof and valleys. My question to the Minister, could he perhaps help this House in explaining why nothing has been budgeted for the perennial floods what we have at the National Cultural Centre whenever rain falls?

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, you will recall that some time ago in the Supplementary, we came to the House for a supplementary and ask for a supplementary of \$9,000,000, with those monies we were able to do works to

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remedy the annual flooding that was there. So I do not think that we would have that problem anymore.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary, could the Hon Minister then assuring the Honourable House that with the bottom being looked after, there will be no floods, because you came for supplementary and now with the roof and valleys repaired that whether the rains came from above or below there will be no flooding of the National Cultural Centre.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** Mde Chairperson, with the work that we will be doing on the roof, I would anticipate that we would not get rain coming through the roof and that is why we are doing these works.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 4501700 - National Archives - \$2,000,000 - purchase of microfiche and other museum supplies, Profile Page 142 - when you look at the description there are certain things there. My question to the Hon Minister, is why was no consideration given to the purchasing of a photocopying machine, which from my personal knowledge, because people would know that when I do my debates, I quote fairly extensively from the newspapers and there is no photocopying machine there and it is very, very inconvenient, not only for me but for many people who used that. So here we are buying other advance things and there is no photocopying machine there for at least three years.

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** The Microfiche is essential for an ongoing programme for preservation of the records that we have,

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and that is why we have budgeted for this here. In terms of a photocopier, I am advised that the Archives do have a photocopier.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to ask the Hon Minister whether this is for the new Archives building and if it is, is that arrangement completed? When is it likely to be ready - the construction?

**The Chairperson:** The Hon Minister

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** As I said, the microfiching that we are doing is an ongoing process of preservation. The work that we are doing right now at the National Museum will continue at the new building.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Vanessa Kissoon

**Ms Vanessa Kissoon:** Mde Chairperson, under Project Code 1800100 - Youth - Profile 135 - Construction and Rehabilitation of Buildings - I would like to know which buildings will be rehabilitated. Could the Hon Minister please say?

**Hon Dr Frank CS Anthony:** This is for the complex at Madewini; it would also help us to do the workshop at Kuru Kuru College?

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**Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$401,700,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 128 and 129

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 411 - Main Office**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$318,994,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 411 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I note a significant increase in this Code, could the Minister explain why this significant increase from \$1,371,000 to \$5,180,000?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Increase in salaries and better provision for security.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

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**Ms Amna Ally:** A supplementary question - Could the Minister say if the amount reflected here will take care of VAT, because I note now that security companies are asking for the VAT increases.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes, it will include the VAT.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Volda Lawrence

**Mrs Volda A Lawrence:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6281 - Security Securities - Could the Hon Minister say whether this also will support increase in the number of security personnel for the schools?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** No, this is not for the schools. Schools will come under Programme 5.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account 6116 - Contracted Employees - we see a figure budgeted for \$24,049,000 and when we go to the Staffing Details we see that is for eleven contracted employees and my question is, if the Hon Minister would be kind enough to give us the designations and the salaries of the highest paid contracted employee and similarly for the lowest paid contracted employee.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** The highest paid would be for the Permanent Secretary and the lowest paid will be for the Confidential Secretary to the Minister.

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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** It was really a two-part question and the second part which I did ask was the highest person along with the salary and the lowest with the salary. You did not give me the salary.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This will be the normal PS salary.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I do not know what the normal PS salary is; I was never a PS.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** I can send you a written reply on the salary of the PSs, because it varies.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Madame, on the same item, what about the lowest, the salary for the lowest contracted employee?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** The salary of the Confidential Secretary is \$36,161. **The Chairperson: The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Could the Hon Minister say at Account Code 6281 - Security Services - whether there has been a change in the security service provider?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes, we have several security providers and we go on tendering from time to time.

**Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 411 - Main Office - \$318,994,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 130 and 131

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 412 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$92,029,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 412 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Looking at the Staffing Details, I see there is a reduction in the contracted employees from seven to four; could the Minister say in which area this reduction has been made?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** No, I would not be able to say in which specific areas, but this is due to attrition, resignations, failure to renew contracts and so on. So there is a reduction.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to refer the Minister to Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - I noticed that there has been more than 100 percent increase, could the Minister indicate what is responsible for this?

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**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** What is the Code number?

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence. It is Page 131

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** No, could you look at it; could you refer me to the exact figures. The revised is \$3,000,000 and the budget is \$3,500,000.

**The Chairperson:** Okay, that is not very substantial.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - \$15,415,000 is allocated for a scholarships, can the Hon Minister say if this scholarship is for teachers going to university or if it is general scholarships?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is to provide for new subjects in the Training Caribbean Examination Council. They are introducing new subjects, economics, workshops, English A, English B and Mathematics revisions.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to ask the Hon Minister to look at Account Code 6301 - Education Subventions and Grants - there is over 200 percent increase, could he say what is responsible for this?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** It is for the Guyana Teachers' Union. This is new and it is to provide them with \$5,000,000 to assist in



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teacher training, the Walter Rodney Chair at the University of Guyana and the Adult Education Association.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Minister, I am sorry; I am trying to follow it; is it 6301 or 6302?

**Hon ShaiK KZ Baksh:** She asked for 6301.

**Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 412 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision - \$92,029,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 132 and 133

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 413 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$801,226,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 413 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - the Staffing Details indicate to us that eight people were there in 2006 and eight people are still there in 2007, so they are long term temporary employees; could

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the Hon Minister say what is the job description of these temporary employees.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is for the Book Distribution Unit.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** All eight?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** I would like to refer the Minister to maintenance of buildings...

**The Chairperson:** Account Code?

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** 6242 and ask whether or not the St Agnes School is included in this.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Thus is not for schools; this is for the Administration Buildings.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** A supplementary question to Account Code 6117, I am sorry about this. The Hon Minister in answering my question indicated that the eight persons were attached to the Book Distribution Unit and my question to the Hon Minister is it that the Book Distribution Unit is a temporary unit or is it that the staff, who are manning it are they permanent staff. That is what I am trying to find out

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** The seasonal inflow of books, from time to time we recruit them; they come in and they go out back.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Amna Ally

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**Mrs Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Minister give some details as to the categories of training under this Code?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is for training of the staff of the Ministry, education, management and so on.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Account Code 6231 - Education Subsidies and Grants - just a nominal increase, but what is it intended for?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** It is for the subsidy for the Examinations Division of the Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Basil Williams

**Mr Basil Williams:** Account Code 6292 - Dietary - Could I inquire respectfully from the Minister what this item entails?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is for the School Feeding Programme.

**Mr Basil Williams:** The Account Code above 6291 - National and Other Events.

**Hon Shaik Kz Baksh:** This will deal with Mashramani, independence, education month and so on.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

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**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6292 - Dietary - Could the Hon Minister say how many schools will benefit from this programme and by extension how many children?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** I can supply you with that but I will provide the information, but it runs across the country both in the Hinterland and Coastal areas.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr David Patterson

**Mr David Patterson:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6284 - Other Goods and Services Purchased - Could the Hon Minister say what is classified under **Other** for \$55,000,000?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This deals with the Examinations Division, the Administration of examinations countrywide.

**Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 413 - Ministry Administration - \$801,226,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

**The Chairperson:** Pages 134 and 135

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 414 - Training and Development**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$513,176,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 414 - Training and Development - \$513,176,000 - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Quite a significant jump which is perhaps commendable \$5.842 million to \$92,000,000; could the Hon Minister share with this House what has led to this significant increase?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** The CPCE has taken over the GIBET Programme which has come to an end and this involves teaching training in the hinterland areas.

**Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 414 - Training and Development - \$513,176,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates**

**The Chairperson:** Page 136 and 137

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 415 - Education Delivery**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,271,213,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, programme 415 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when we look at the Staffing Details we see thirteen persons and my question is (and someone on the other side has pre-empted me) what is the highest and the lowest contract employee in terms of both the designation and the salary?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is to provide staffing at the Practical Instruction Centre, the technical institutions - New Amsterdam, Anna Regina and so on. I do not have the details on the highest and lowest contract employee.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Account Code 6283 - Cleaning and Extermination Services - what is responsible for the fluctuation in the cost? It went down last year and it is up again?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** It should have been more, because this is for the extermination and cleaning of the schools in Georgetown area.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Basil Williams

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**Mr Basil Williams:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - the Staffing Details reveal a substantial number; could the Hon Minister say if the rehiring of retired teachers come under this head?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is for the hiring of temporary staff for the school system as a whole including the technical institutes.

**Mr Basil Williams:** Retired persons?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes.

**Mr Basil Williams:** Retired teachers will be hired and included as temporary?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes, when they are rehired they are given a contract.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister

**Mr James K McAllister:** Mde Chairperson, Account Code 6301 - Education Subvention and Grants - For information, could the Hon Minister say what activities this head will be covering?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** If you look at Page 377, you will see all of them listed there under Programme 5;

- GTI;
- Linden Technical Institute;

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- University of Guyana;
- Chritchlow Labour College;
- Queens College;
- President's College and so on.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Mde Chairperson, back to the temporary employees, the Hon Minister indicated that teachers who were retired and are rehired would come under the category of temporary employees - Account Code 6117, but then the Minister further went on to say that they would sign a contract. So my question to him is if that is so and they signed contracts, would it not be better placed under contracted employees rather than temporary employees.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Okay, on a point of correction, the temporary employees relate to the part time lecturers in the In-service Teachers Training College across the country.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** The question would then be which category of your Staffing Details between COA 6111 and 6117 caters for those teachers who are retired and have been rehired and who according to you, Minister, would have signed contracts?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** COA 6116 will relate to the hiring of retired teachers.



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**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** Will the Hon Minister then say to this House that it is the intention ... as we speak now there are only thirteen rehired teachers?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** It seems to be some problem here. We do have more than thirteen retired teachers in the system.

**Mrs Deborah J Backer:** I know that.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** There seems to be some between the temporary and the contract and this would not be the figure for the whole country; this would only be for Georgetown.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Vanessa Kissoon

**Ms Vanessa Kissoon:** Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I would like to ask the Hon Minister what kind of Training ... and if there are any scholarships?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Account Code 6302 relates to the training in the school system - nursery, primary and secondary - within Georgetown. We conduct a lot of training programmes for the teachers.

**Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 415 - Education Delivery - \$3,271,213,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

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**The Chairperson:** Pages 413, 414 and 415

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - Agency Totals**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,748,750,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Education - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally: Mde Chairperson:** Project Code 1207500 - BASIC EDUCATION ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME - the Legend says Payment of Admin expenses ... I wonder if the Hon Minister could provide some details.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This will be for the payment of staff, the consultants also the civil engineering consultants for the schools.

**Ms Amna Ally:** Could the Minister say whether cluster advisers are included in this category?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes, cluster advisers are accommodated.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Basil Williams

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**Mr Basil Williams:** Project Code 1206000 - President's College - Could the Hon Minister say if anything is set aside for the replacement of the burnt-out part of the President's College?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** That is almost completed; it was a 2006 project.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** With respect to furnishings to the said extension, could the Hon Minister say if provision is here for that?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Yes, some of this money will be spent for that.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I want to refer the Minister to Project Code 1206100, it talks about craft production and design; I would be grateful if the Minister could enlighten me, because I am totally ignorant about this particular project. I see that the Project Profile does not have it, what is it all about?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** There is a craft and production design building, but within the Carnegie School of Home Economics, so really it should have read the water supply system for the Carnegie School of Home Economics. You are quite right.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Vanessa Kissoon

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**Ms Vanessa Kissoon:** Project Code 1205900 - Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools - Project Profile 109 - Construction And Rehabilitation Of Nursery, Primary And Secondary Schools ... Could the Hon Minister please indicate how many schools in Region 10 - the names of the schools and if they were catered for?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** No, this would be for schools in Georgetown and St Cuthbert's Mission that is the only exception.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Agency 41 - School Performance - Could the Hon Minister say what are the provisions the legend refers to?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is under the BEAMS Project. It is a sub-component to deal with numeracy and literacy training in all the schools.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 2603500 - School Furniture and Equipment - Could the Minister say if these two are treated separately; if they are, how much for each?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is not under BEAMS; this is for the school system in Georgetown. This is money provided by the Central Ministry to purchased furniture for the schools in Georgetown.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** Mde Chairperson, could the Hon Minister say with respect to Project Code 1205900 - Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools, whether St Cuthbert's School is to be rehabilitated or constructed and how much is provided specifically for that project?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** The School is about ninety-five percent completed.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mervyn Williams

**Mr Mervyn Williams:** The second part of the question with respect to how much?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** \$42,000,000

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to refer the Honourable Minister to Project Code 1206600 - University of Guyana –Turkeyen. It talks extensively about rehabilitation, but when I checked the Project Profile, it refers us to one of the intended achievements established under the data bank for national, regional and international data sets. Can you explain to me if this is a specific project or is it an overall bigger project? What is the objective?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This is a programme run by the University Social Statistics Project. This is a separate project.

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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, I go back to Project Code 2603500 - School Furniture and Equipment. I am happy that the Minister said that it is furniture for the schools. I would like to know whether it is treated separately, furniture and equipment or furniture with equipment and if they are, how much for each section ... how much is for furniture and how much is for equipment?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** It is for both furniture and equipment. I would not be able to give you the breakdown at this point in time.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder

**Mrs Sheila VA Holder:** Mde Chairperson, I would like to refer the Hon Minister to the University of Guyana, Berbice Campus. I see that the amount is specific to the establishment of a science laboratory. Could the Minister tell me whether or not there are sufficient lecturers for the Berbice Campus?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** I would not be able to tell you that.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mrs Amna Ally ...

**Ms Amna Ally:** Project Code 4502200 - Education For All - Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) ... *[Interruption]*

**The Chairperson:** Honourable Member, what page is it?

**Ms Aman Ally:** Page 415, I thought you were taking all the pages together, Madame.

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**The Chairperson:** Yes, go ahead.

**Ms Amna Ally:** Mde Chairperson, Project Code 4502200 - EFA-FTI - and looking at the Legend and the description of the project in the Capital Project Profile - Could the Minister say what are some of the provisions for the child-friendly classrooms?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** \$55,000,000 set aside for what is called the School Improvement Plans (SIPS).

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Vanessa Kissoon ...

**Ms Vanessa Kissoon:** Project Code 1207500 - BEAMS - I would like to ask the Hon Minister if Region 10 is included and how many schools.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** No, this is for no schools in Region 10. Under the LEAP Programme ... Wisburg Secondary School.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Ms Amna Ally ...

**Ms Amna Ally:** Project Code 2502000 on the question of textbooks, I would like to ask the Hon Minister whether any thought was given or what is the focus, which level textbooks will be provided, if it is only for primary schools or all the schools?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Only primary schools

**Ms Amna Ally:** A supplementary Mde Chairperson ... Is there a focus on any particular level? I ask this question because the

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levels five and six in the schools in Georgetown have been suffering for a very long time.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This would not cover the schools in Georgetown, but it is for the Hinterland areas - Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9.

**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James K McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Project Code 1207500 - BEAMS ... The Hon Minister just stated that Region 10 is not included. When I look at the Project Profile on Page 118, I see it is stated under Regions - Regions 1 to 10 National - I would just like a clarification from the Hon Minister as to why Region 10 is not included.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Page 110 in the other document?

**Mr James K McAllister:** Page 118 in the Profile - Volume 3.

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** Could you please repeat the question - that Region 10 is included here?

**Mr James K McAllister:** If you look at the top on the right hand side - Regions - Box 3 - Regions 1 to 10, a national programme. But then you said that Region 10 is excluded so I am just wondering ...

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** A good question - It is not included for the construction of schools, but the BEAMS Project covers all the primary schools in terms of literacy, teacher training and so on across the country and Region 10 would be included.



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**The Chairperson:** The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister ...

**Mr James K McAllister:** Project Code 1207500 - BEAMS ... Under the Profile we see numeracy and literacy programmes - development of such programmes ...

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** I am just trying to get some information as to where we are with those programmes and what is the Minister's plan, whether it is confined to schools or if we are going to have special programmes in communities to deal with this issue?

**Hon Shaik KZ Baksh:** This will be confined to the Primary School System country-wide and we have already employed master trainers plus advisers to train teachers in the new methodology.

**Agency 44 - Ministry of Education - Capital Expenditure - Agency Totals - \$1,748,750,000 -agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

## **Assembly Resumed**

**The Acting Speaker:** Honourable Members, this concludes our business for today, but before we leave I want to point out to you that we have allocated three days for the consideration of the

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Estimates and we are finished quite early today, earlier than anticipated according to the estimates. So it has been suggested by the Clerk that I tell you that on Day 2 which is Monday that you also consider bringing those people who are early in Day 3 or at least to have them on standby, so in case we finish early and can move on Monday to some of Tuesday's work, we will be in a position to do so.

Secondly, I have also been advised to tell you that there are lots of snacks that were ordered in anticipation of our staying here much later than this time; so you are free to take some of those with you.

The Honourable Prime Minister ...

**Hon Samuel AA Hinds:** Mde Speaker, I move that the House be adjourned to Monday, 19 February 2007 at 14:00H.

**The Acting Speaker:** The House stands adjourned to Monday, 19 February 2007 at 14:00H

*Adjourned Accordingly At 18:50H*