

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 26TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10.00 A.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd MARCH, 2021
IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (38)

Peoples Progressive Party Civic (38)

Prime Minister (1)

Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark A. Phillips, M.S.S., M.P., Prime Minister

Vice-President (1)

Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President (Absent)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (17)

Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip

Hon. Hugh H. Todd, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Virtual-Participation)

*Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister of Public Works

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***Non-Elected Member**

2.

Hon. Dr. Frank C. S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara),
Minister of Education

*Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne), Minister of
Agriculture

Hon. Pauline R.A. Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

Hon. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources

*Hon. Oneidge Walrond, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Hon. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam), Minister of Local
Government and Regional Development

Hon. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – BarimaWaini), Minister of Housing and Water

Hon. Vindhya V. H. Persaud, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of
Human Services and Social Security

Hon. Charles S. Ramson, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Hon. Sonia S. Parag, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

Junior Ministers (4)

Hon. Warren K.E. McCoy, M.P., Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Works

Hon. Anand Persaud, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional
Development

Hon. Susan M. Rodrigues, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the
Ministry of Housing and Water

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***Non-Elected Member**

3.

Other Members (14)

Hon. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Hon. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Hon. Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Hon. Sanjeev J. Datadin, M.P.

Hon. Seepaul Narine, M.P.

Hon. Yvonne Pearson-Fredericks, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.

Hon. Faizal M. Jaffarally, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Hon. Dr. Tandika S. Smith, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hon. Lee G.H. Williams, M.P.

*Hon. Sarah Browne, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Vikash Ramkissoon, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) (31)

Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P.

Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Virtual - Participation)

Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Karen R.V. Cummings, M.P.

Hon. Tabitha J. Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Christopher A. Jones, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

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***Non-Elected Member**

4.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P.

Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P.

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Ronald Cox, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Hon. Shurwayne F.K. Holder, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Ganesh A. Mahipaul, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Hon. Nima N. Flue-Bess, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Maureen A. Philadelphia, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Deonarine Ramsaroop, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Hon. Vinceroy H. Jordan, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Hon. Dineshwar N. Jaiprakash, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Hon. Richard E. Sinclair, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Hon. Jermaine A. Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Hon. Devin L. Sears, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

A New and United Guyana, Liberty and Justice Party and The New Movement (ANUG, LJP & TNM) (1)

Hon. Lenox R. O'Dell Shuman, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

5.

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 10.08 a.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) UNPROFESSIONAL VIDEO RECORDING

The Honourable Speaker informed Members that he received a very disturbing video of the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., coming out of a washroom at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (Parliamentary Precinct). He also informed Members that if this continues he will ban persons from videoing and taking photos on the corridors.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET SPEECH 2021 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2021

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2021.

**(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance
on 2021-02-12)**

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

06 – MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND GOVERNANCE

Current Expenditure

061 Policy Development and Administration

Capital Expenditure

061 Policy Development and Administration

Current Expenditure

062 Parliamentary Affairs

Capital Expenditure

062 Parliamentary Affairs

Current Expenditure

063 Governance

Capital Expenditure

063 Governance

07 – PARLIAMENT OFFICE

Current Expenditure

071 National Assembly

Capital Expenditure

071 National Assembly

08 – AUDIT OFFICE

Current Expenditure

081 Audit Office

Capital Expenditure

081 Audit Office

7.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.15 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.34 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies and Programmes in the Estimates of Expenditure were considered and approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:

09 – PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

091 Public and Police Service Commissions

Capital Expenditure

091 Public and Police Service Commission

10 – TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

101 Teaching Service Commission

Capital Expenditure

101 Teaching Service Commission

11 – GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

111 Elections Commission

Capital Expenditure

111 Elections Commission

8.

55 – SUPREME COURT

Current Expenditure

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

Capital Expenditure

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

56 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Current Expenditure

561 Public Prosecutions

Capital Expenditure

561 Public Prosecutions

57 – OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Current Expenditure

571 Ombudsman

Capital Expenditure

571 Ombudsman

58 – PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Current Expenditure

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

At 3.46p.m., during the Consideration of the Current Estimates for the Public Service Appellate Tribunal the Members of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change withdrew from the Chamber.

59 – ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

Current Expenditure

591 Ethnic Relations Commission

At 3.55p.m., during the Consideration of the Current Estimates for the Ethnic Relations Commission the Members of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change returned to the Chamber.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended due to grave disorder arising in the Assembly by Members of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.55 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed

ALLEGATION ASSAULT MADE AGAINST HON. WARREN MCCOY, M.P., MINISTER WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

“The Honourable Speaker informed the House that an incident was alleged to have occurred on the corridors. A team comprising of the Prime Minister, the Government Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip, along with the Clerk of the National Assembly and I met. The police and the Commander of ‘A’ Division reviewed the tapes of what transpired on the corridor, with a team of persons from the Opposition and from the Government. The team comprised of the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Opposition Chief Whip, the Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P. and the Clerk of the National Assembly.

The Commander reported that what was witnessed on the tape cannot inform a decision of what has allegedly occurred, and he now has to rely on statements from witnesses. We have asked the police to continue that exercise. Statements were taken from several persons. The police will continue with their investigation. It has been decided that we will convene now and adjourn until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow.

10.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.58 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 4th March, 2021.

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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, M.P.,
Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

3rd March, 2021.