

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 100TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 10:00 A.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2025,
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

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 (16)

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

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

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

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. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini), 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 Local Government and Regional Development

Junior Ministers (4)

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

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

Other Members (15)

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.

Hon. Nandranie Coonjah, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Hon. Suresh Singh, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)**(i) A Partnership For National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) (31)**

Hon. Aubrey Norton M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P. (Absent on – Leave)

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

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

Hon. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

Hon. Sherod A. Duncan, M.P.

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

4.

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

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

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

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

Hon. Coretta A. McDonald, A.A., M.P. (Virtual – Participation)

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

Hon. Vincent P. Henry, M.P.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P.

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

Hon. Natasha Singh-Lewis, M.P.

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Juretha V. Fernandes, M.P.

Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.

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

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

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

Hon. Haimraj B. Rajkumar, M.P.

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

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

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

Hon. Beverley Alert, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

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

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. Dr. Asha Kisooson, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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Officers (2)

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

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 10.19 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

1. Welcome

The Speaker welcomed teachers and students from St. Joseph High School to the Assembly.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 54(1)(a)

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, on behalf of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 54(1)(a) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its Sitting on Wednesday, 5th February, 2025, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2025 – Bill No. 2/2025.

(Notice Paper No. 409 (M89 Govt 49) published on 2025-01-30)

The motion was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****MOTION****BUDGET SPEECH 2025 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2025**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025.

(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service on 2025-01-17)

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:

47 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH**Current Expenditure**

- 471 Policy Development and Administration
- 472 Disease Control - Communicable Diseases
- 473 Family and Primary Health Care Services
- 474 Regional and Clinical Services
- 475 Health Sciences Education
- 476 Standards and Technical Services
- 477 Disability and Rehabilitation Services
- 478 Disease Control - Non-Communicable Diseases

Capital Expenditure

- 471 Policy Development and Administration
- 472 Disease Control - Communicable Diseases
- 473 Family and Primary Health Care Services
- 474 Regional and Clinical Services
- 475 Health Sciences Education
- 476 Standards and Technical Services

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477 Disability and Rehabilitation Services

478 Disease Control - Non-Communicable Diseases

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 12.34 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 1.56 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:

51 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Current Expenditure

511 Policy Development and Administration

512 Guyana Police Force

513 Guyana Prison Service

515 Guyana Fire Service

516 General Register Office

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.58 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.10 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

In Committee of Supply

The Assembly continued and concluded the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for Agency 51 – Ministry of Home Affairs – Current and Capital:

51 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**Current Expenditure**

516 General Register Office

517 Customs Anti-Narcotics

Capital Expenditure

511 Policy Development and Administration

512 Guyana Police Force

513 Guyana Prison Service

515 Guyana Fire Service

516 General Register Office

517 Customs Anti-Narcotics

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:

14 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE**Current Expenditure**

141 Policy Development and Administration

142 Human Resource Development

143 Human Resource Management & Technology

Capital Expenditure

141 Policy Development and Administration

142 Human Resource Development

143 Human Resource Management & Technology

03 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Current Expenditure

031 Policy and Administration

032 Public Financial Management Policies and Services

Capital Expenditure

031 Policy and Administration

032 Public Financial Management Policies and Services

The Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025 and had approved of them as printed.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2025 was put and carried.

BILLS – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 – APPROPRIATION BILL 2025 – Bill No. 1/2025 published on 2025-01-17

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2025 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2025, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 3 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 – Bill No. 2/2025 published on 2025-01-29

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2025-01-30)

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 – 6 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2025 was read a third time and passed as printed.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7.46 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Manzoor Nadir", is displayed on a light-colored rectangular background.

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

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

5th February, 2025.