

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 103RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2020-2025) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2:00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 16TH MAY, 2025,
IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

*Hon. Manzoor Nadir, J.P., 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 – on Leave)

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 (Absent – on leave)

*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**

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. 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 (Absent – on Leave)

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

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***Non-Elected Member**

3.

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 (Absent)

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Hon. Roysdale A. Forde, S.C., M.P. (Virtual Participation)

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. (Virtual Participation)

/...4

***Non-Elected Member**

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)

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 Kissoon, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Virtual-Participation)

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 2.44 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk led in Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

1. A Minute's Silence on the Death of Ms. Amna Ally and Mr. Hilton Eastman

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for the late Ms. Amna Ally, former Member of Parliament, and Mr. Hilton Eastman, father of Mr. Joshua Eastman, a staff of the Parliament Office.

2. Birthday Salutations

The Speaker extended birthday wishes to Ms. Samantha Crawford, Administrative Officer and Mr. Rakesh Samlall, Electrician of the Parliament Office.

3. Press Release by the Guyana Human Rights Association

“Hon. Members, I need to make two statements before we go into today's proceedings. The first is a comment on the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA). This is based on its press release on the 1st May and the matter raised in this House by the Hon. Member, Ms. Walton-Desir. Members, the Guyana Human Rights Association, in its press release that was carried widely on 1st May, accused the Speaker of a number of things.

6.

I want to put on record my response. Matters pertaining to the House, I prefer to deal with in the House rather than in the press. It seems that the Guyana Human Rights Association is now the authority on Standing Orders and Parliamentary Procedure.

The release said:

“...that the Speaker of Parliament, Manzoor Nadir, on Monday rejected its Petition submitted to Parliament calling for an international inquiry into all aspects of the Guyana Police Force (GPF). It added that in accordance with parliamentary procedures, the Petition was submitted by sitting MP Amanza Walton-Desir and supported by all major parliamentary opposition parties.”

Well, I do not know which parliamentary procedures that petition complied with. The GHRA also said: “...it was set aside for procedural reasons, which the association claims...”

That there is: “...the default response to such petitions from the current Speaker.”

I can only apply the rules before me. A Petition was received by the Clerk and the Clerk has to read the petitions against the Standing Orders and then submit it to the Speaker for inclusion on the agenda for that day.

We were quite clear that petitions have to follow the Standing Orders, the rules of the National Assembly, and the Clerk is the person who would assess whether the petitions conform to those rules. I mentioned that petitions ask for three things in its plea – either for the petition to be read or it be circulated or it be referred to a special select committee.

Nowhere in the rules of our Parliament can any petition be in the form of a motion to be debated the same day. Nowhere. After five years of sitting here and having been trained as a Lawyer and five years as a lawmaker, Members ought to know the rules. It is no different from the rules of the Court. It is not a procedure. There are Standing Orders that have been developed over 800 years of Parliament for the good order and good governance of this August House.

7.

I crave your indulgence because the Parliament Office did respond, and I want to read into our records the response to the Guyana Human Rights Association.

“The Parliament Office wishes to clarify the circumstances surrounding the petition submitted by the Hon. Amanza O.R. Walton-Desir, M.P., on Monday, April 28, 2025, as referenced in a recent press release by the Guyana Human Rights Association.

The Office provides the following points of clarification:

1. Timing of the Submission: The petition was received by the Clerk of the National Assembly at approximately 10:10 a.m. after the scheduled start of the Sitting.
2. Petitions are first reviewed by the Clerk to ensure compliance with parliamentary requirements before being submitted to the Speaker for approval and inclusion on the Order Paper.
3. The Clerk’s review found that the petition required one cover letter outlining key procedural directives, including whether it should be read in the House, printed and circulated, or referred to a Special Select Committee.
4. The Clerk attempted to contact Ms. Walton-Desir during the suspension of the Sitting at 12:55 p.m. to address the missing documentation, but she was unavailable. As a result, the petition could not be processed further at that time.
5. Contrary to claims in the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) press release, the position was not rejected by the Speaker of the National Assembly, as it had not yet been formally submitted for his consideration.

The Parliament Office remains committed to upholding established parliamentary procedures and encourages adherence to submission protocols to ensure petitions are duly processed.”

8.

4. Parliamentary Website

“The next item I want to raise is the issue of the parliamentary website. We have seen some comments from within the House and outside of the House on the website, and some very derogatory words are coming. *One bad apple or omission does not spoil the whole barrel or the menu.* I wish to commend the staff of the Parliament Office not only for the site maintenance and update, but also for the content”.

5. Publishing of Speeches for all Female Members of Parliament by Ms. Indranie Chanderpaul

“I also wish to commend the former Member of Parliament (MP), Ms. Indranie Chanderpaul, for her work in publishing the speeches of all of the female Members of Parliament since 1953. As of today, a list of all the speeches given by every female Member of Parliament from 1953 to 2023 is now available. You can see when they made those contributions. Our researchers are now working to ensure the digital copy of every one of those speeches will be up, starting with the current Parliament. All male Members of Parliament speeches will be up within two months. I invite Members and users to visit the site. If there are any queries for information, please use the contact available on the site and we will respond”.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

(a) Audited Financial Statements of the Rights of the Child Commission for the year ended 31st December, 2023.

(Circulated)

(b) Audited Financial Statements of the Indigenous Peoples’ Commission for the years ended 31st December, 2015 to 2023.

(Circulated)

9.

- (c) Annual Audited Reports for the Women and Gender Equality Commission for the years ended 31st December, 2015 to 2023.

(Circulated)

- (d) Audited Financial Statements of the Rights Commission of Guyana for the years ended 31st December, 2015 to 2023.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service:

- (a) Annual Report of the Guyana Oil Company Limited for the year ended 31st December, 2023.

(Circulated)

- (b) Annual Reports of the Guyana Securities Council for the years ended 31st December, 2019 to 2023.

(Circulated)

- (c) Annual Report of the Financial Intelligence Unit Guyana for the years ended 31st December, 2022 and 2023.

(Circulated)

- (d) Annual Report of the National Insurance Scheme for the year 2023.

(Circulated)

- (e) Financial Paper No. 1/2025 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$57,492,615,275 for the period ending 2025-12-31.

The Minister named the next Sitting of the National Assembly for consideration of the Financial Paper.

(Circulated)

- (3) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, on behalf of the Minister of Human Services & Social Security, presented the following:

Adoption of Children (Intercountry Adoptions) Regulations 2025 – No. /2025.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received an oral question without notice from Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P., and that it did not qualify under Standing Order 18(b). He therefore disallowed the question.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GRANTS ISSUED TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

1. Could Honourable Minister indicate to the National Assembly, from 2020 to October 2024, how many small businesses that received grants still exist? If none, what are the pitfalls?
2. Can the Honourable Minister state what mechanisms are in place to ensure that these businesses remain viable?

(Notice Paper No. 379 (Q287 Opp.287) published on 2025-01-23)

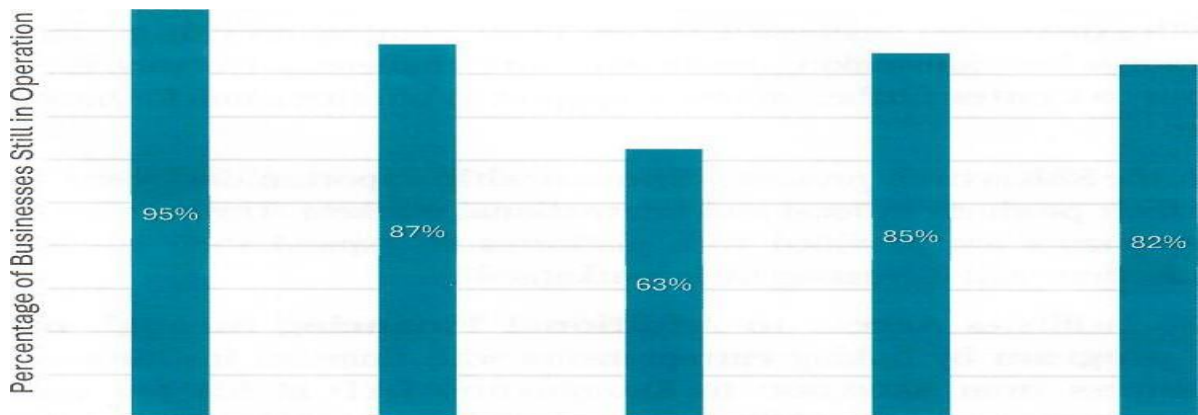
ANSWERS

1. “Businesses still in Operation

Over the period 2020 to 2024, the Small Business Bureau issued 3,920 grants to small businesses across the country as part of its efforts to support entrepreneurship and stimulate economic growth.

11.

To date, the Bureau has successfully conducted Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) visits for 2,877 of those businesses, representing a significant commitment to ensuring accountability and tracking the impact of these grants to ensure business continuity and growth. Of the businesses monitored an average of 82% are still in operation over the four years, a testament to the resilience of our small business sector and the positive impact of this initiative.



However, we acknowledge that challenges remain. The Bureau was unable to conduct M&E visits for all grant recipients due to factors such as changes in business locations, updated contact information not being provided, and, in some cases, business owners migrating.

We remain committed to the success of small businesses and will continue to strengthen our monitoring mechanisms to better serve this vital sector of our economy.”

2. **“Mechanisms in Place**

The mechanisms in place by the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to ensure that businesses receiving grants remain viable is one of significant importance to the development and sustainability of small businesses in Guyana. We would like to outline the robust systems employed by the SBB to address this matter effectively.

Firstly, Continuous **Business Development and Financial Literacy Training** plays a critical role. Entrepreneurs benefiting from these grants are continuously engaged in workshops and training sessions. These sessions focus on essential areas such as Business Proposal Writing, Financial Management and Record Keeping, Small Business Management, Marketing Fundamentals and many others. This ensures that our business owners are equipped with the necessary skills to successfully manage and grow their enterprises.

Secondly, **Monitoring and Evaluation** is a continuous process. The SBB conducts regular follow-ups with businesses to assess their progress, address challenges and further needs of businesses. This hands-on approach ensures that businesses remain on track toward achieving their goals.

Additionally, SBB has introduced **Mentorship Programs** that connect grant recipients with experienced business advisors. These mentors provide guidance on best practices, strategic decision-making, and overcoming challenges. Notably, the **relaunch of the Resource Center** further enhances support by offering a hub for business advice and resources.

Furthermore, the SBB actively promotes **Sponsorship** opportunities by enabling clients to showcase their products in local and international markets. Through trade fairs and expos, entrepreneurs are provided with platforms to expand their reach and build valuable connections and increasing their marketability.

13.

The SBB also facilitates **Access to Additional Financing through our Loans Guarantee program** by linking entrepreneurs with financial institutions accessing loans for business from \$500,000 to \$30,000,000 GYD at 6% per annum while guaranteeing from 40% to 70% of the collateral. This ensures that businesses have the financial backing they need to scale up operations and remain competitive.

These mechanisms demonstrate a comprehensive and structured approach by the Small Business Bureau to not only ensure accountability for grants provided but also to empower small businesses to thrive and contribute to economic growth. The SBB remains steadfast in its mission to foster sustainable entrepreneurship and create opportunities for long-term success.”

2. **LIST OF COMPANIES AWARDED CONTRACTS TO CONSTRUCT THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY AND THE GUYANA WATER INC.**

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

The National Assembly approved some \$1.3B for the construction of a new Headquarters to facilitate and accommodate staffers of Central Housing and Planning Authority and Guyana Water Inc. Minister Colin Croal and TEAM made a visit to the construction site on March 12, 2024. During his visit, he reported his satisfaction of the project and stated that the project will be completed by the end of 2024.

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with a complete list of the contracting companies who were awarded contracts for building the headquarters for CHPA and GWI?
2. Could the Honourable Minister indicate to the National Assembly when the above-named companies at (1) above were formed, and contracts previously awarded to them?

(Notice Paper No. 381 (Q289 Opp.289) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWER

1. “Contracting companies awarded contracts for the CHPA Building

- (a) Aika General Construction and Hardware Supplies Inc.
- (b) Mac Junior International
- (c) N. Balgobin & Sons Contracting Service & Electrical Supplies
- (d) Amazon Cooling Inc.

Contracting company awarded contract for the GWI Building

- (a) Kares Engineering Inc.”

3. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY AND THE GUYANA WATER INC.

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

The National Assembly has approved some \$1.3B for the construction of a new Headquarters to facilitate and accommodate staffers of Central Housing and Planning Authority and Guyana Water Inc. Minister Colin Croal and TEAM made a visit to the construction site on March 12, 2024. During his visit, he reported his satisfaction of the project and stated that the project will be completed by the end of 2024.

- 1. Can Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly when were the contracts signed for the CHPA and GWI headquarters, respectively and when the commencement dates took effect?
- 2. Can Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly of the completion date for the projects for construction of the CHPA and GWI Headquarters?
- 3. Can Honourable Minister layover to the National Assembly, copies of contracts for both CHPA and GWI projects?

(Notice Paper No. 382 (Q290 Opp.290) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

(a)

“No.	Project	Name of Contractors	Contract Signing Date	Commencement Date	Completion Date
1	Phase - 1	Aika General Construction and Hardware Supplies Inc.	December 30, 2022	January 13, 2023	An extension of time is currently being reviewed by the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) with the approval from NPTAB and will be provided shortly.
2	Phase 2 – Lot 1	Mac Junior International	September 30, 2024	October 21, 2024	
3	Phase 2 – Lot 2	N. Balgobin & Sons Contracting Service & Electrical Supplies	September 30, 2024	October 21, 2024	
4	Phase 2 – Lot 3	Mac Junior International	September 30, 2024	October 21, 2024	
5	Supply and Installation of HVAC System at Office Building for Central Housing and Planning Authority, Houston and Georgetown	Amazon Cooling Inc.	October 31, 2023	November 14, 2023	Complete installation depends on the above

(b)

No.	Project	Name of Contractor	Contract Signed Date	Commencement Date	Completion Date
1	Construction of the New GWI Head Quarters	Kares Engineering Inc.	September 21, 2023	October 5, 2025	April 15, 2025

(c)

The respective contracts can be viewed at the Central Housing and Planning Authority and Guyana Water Inc.”

4. COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY AND THE GUYANA WATER INC.

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

During his visit to the project site on March 12, 2024; Minister Colin Croal reported that the construction of the CHPA and GWI headquarters will be completed by the end of 2024.

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly what has caused the delay in completing the project by the end of 2024, as reported on March 12, 2024?
2. Could the Honourable Minister state whether there has been a review of the contract for the CHPA and GWI Headquarters? If yes, what is the new contract date for the completion of the project?

(Notice Paper No. 383 (Q291 Opp.291) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

1. “The CHPA New Headquarters Building was delayed primarily due to:
 - Delays in the shipment of materials for the steel superstructure.
 - Limited availability of concrete supplies with concrete pump trucks.

The GWI New Office Building was delayed primarily due to:

- The inclusion of a fourth floor to the building.
2. The revised completion date is currently under review.”

5. BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY AND GUYANA WATER INC.

Member Asking: Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

During his visit to the project site on March 12, 2024; Minister Colin Croal reported that the construction of the CHPA and GWI headquarters will be completed by the end of 2024.

1. Could the Honourable Minister indicate what were the initial dates for the expiration of the Contract Bonds for the CHPA and GWI projects and what are the new bond dates for both projects?
2. Could the Honourable Minister layover to the house, copies of the Contract Bonds for the initial periods, and the new periods for both projects?

(Notice Paper No. 384 (Q292 Opp.292) published on 2025-01-23)

ANSWERS

No.	Project	Name of Contractors	Initial Date of Coverage	Expiration Date	New Bond Date
1	Construction of the Office Building for Central Housing & Planning Authority at Plantation Houston, Georgetown – Phase – 1	Aika General Construction & Hardware Supplies Inc.	December 19, 2022	End of the defects Liability Period	N/A Bond Covered for the entirety of project time.
2	Construction of the Office Building for Central Housing & Planning Authority at Plantation Houston, Georgetown – Phase – 2 – Lot – 1	Mac Junior International	September 26, 2024		
3	Construction of the Office Building for Central Housing & Planning Authority at Plantation Houston, Georgetown – Phase – 2 Lot 3	Mac Junior International	September 26, 2024		
4	Construction of the Office Building for Central Housing & Planning Authority at Plantation Houston, Georgetown – Phase – 2 – Lot 2	N. Balgobin & Sons Contracting Service & Electrical Supplies	September 27, 2024		
5	Supply and Installation of HVAC System at Office Building for Central Housing and Planning Authority, Houston, Georgetown	Amazon Cooling Inc.	October 30, 2023		

No.	Project	Name of Contractors	Initial Date of Coverage	Expiration Date	New Bond Date
1	Construction of the New GWI Headquarters	Kares Engineering Inc.	September 25, 2023	March 25, 2025	March 14, 2026

The respective Bonds can be viewed at the Central Housing & Planning Authority and Guyana Water Inc.”

For Oral Reply

6. * ORGANISED VENEZUELAN GANGS

Hon. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P., asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following question:

*Can the Honourable Minister state whether the Ministry of Home Affairs and/or Joint Services observed any presence of organised Venezuelan gangs, in particular, the Tren de Gang anywhere within our borders?

(Notice Paper No. 403 (Q311 Opp.311) published on 2025-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

1. CRIMINAL LAW MISCELLANEOUS BILL 2025 – Bill No. 8/2025

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend certain enactments.

(Circulated)

2. REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 – No. 9/2025

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Representation of the People Act.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

**ITEM 1 - OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND
RESPONSIBILITY BILL 2025 – Bill No. 7/2025 published on 2025-04-25**

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for preventative, restorative, and compensatory measures in relation to oil spill incidents in the national territory, particularly, the prevention of pollution from oil, oil spill preparedness, response, cooperation, and financial responsibility; the establishment of the Competent National Authority; and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2025-04-28)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Shurwayne Holder, M.P.

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

Hon. Sherod Duncan, M.P.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.17 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.28 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the Bill.

21.

Hon. David Patterson, M.P., also spoke to the motion.

Suspension of Standing Order No. 10(1)

At 7.08 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its business beyond 10.00 p.m.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Hon. Brindley Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

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

Presiding by Hon. Faizal Jaffarally, M.P.

At 7.47 p.m., while the Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Hon. Faizal Jaffarally, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 7.52 p.m., the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

The Hon. Mohabir Nandlall, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 - 39 were passed as printed.

The First, Second & Third Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Responsibility Bill 2025 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**ITEM 2 - ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION AND PASSENGER NAME
RECORD BILL 2025 – Bill No. 4/2025 published on 2025-02-11**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the collection, transmission, sharing, storage and regulation of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record in respect of persons travelling to, departing from and transiting through Guyana and to operationalise the CARICOM Advance Passenger Information System and other related matters.

(Read a first time on 2025-02-17)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Hon. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Hon. Deodat Indar, M.P.

Hon. Brindley Benn, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 - 44 were passed as printed.

The First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs, the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record Bill 2025 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.17 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to 10.00 a.m., on Friday, 23rd May, 2025.



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HON. MANZOOR NADIR, J.P., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Brickdam,

Georgetown.

16th May, 2025.