

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 6TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2003
IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (37)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

- The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- * The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs
- * The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- ** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
- The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health
- Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip
- Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.
- Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
- Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
- Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
- Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.
- Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water
- Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

(ii) **Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)**

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) **Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

OFFICERS

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee of Selection of the
Second Session held on 4th April, 2003.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

DEMERARA HARBOUR BRIDGE CORPORATION BILL 2003 - Bill No. 2/2003

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish the Demerara Harbour Bridge Corporation.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2003 (2003 BUDGET)

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Education

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

Minister of Agriculture

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

6.

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and dispose of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on 7th April, 2003, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2003 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, and passed a Resolution on the matter.

Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Time Table had been circulated to Members at the Sitting on 7th April, 2003.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in its Resolution.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Supply would commence consideration of the 2003 Estimates of Expenditure immediately upon the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2003.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.34 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 6.17 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

7.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto-

01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- 1 Head Office Administration
 - 2 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
 - 4 Amerindian Development
 - 5 Public Policy and Planning
- Div. 501 Office of the President

09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS

- 1 Public and Police Service Commissions
- Div. 505 - Code 25002 Public Service Commission

10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

- 1 Teaching Service Commission
- Div. 505 - Code 25008 Teaching Service Commission

11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION

- 1 Elections Commission
- Div. 505 - Code 25010 Guyana Elections Commission

53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

- 1 Defence Headquarters

8.

57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

1 Ombudsman

Div. 505 - Code 25005 Office of the Ombudsman

58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

Div. 505 - Code 25009 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

1 Prime Minister's Secretariat

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1 Ministry Administration

2 Public Works

3 Communications and Transport

Div. 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air Transport Reform Programme

Div. 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences

Div. 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications

Div. 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges/Roads

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

1 National Assembly

Div. 505 - Code 25003 Parliament Building

Div. 505 - Code 25011 Land Transport

15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Div. 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Foreign Relations
 - 3 Foreign Trade & International Co-operation
- Div. 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORT

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Culture
 - 3 Youth
 - 4 Sports
 - 5 Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- Div. 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision
 - 3 Ministry Administration
 - 4 Training and Development
 - 5 Education Delivery
- Div. 543 Ministry of Education
- Div. 544 Ministry of Education - Secondary School Reform Project
- Div. 547 Guyana Education Access Project
- Div. 553 Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme

13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 Ministry Administration
 - 3 Regional Development
- Div. 527 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 531 Region 1: Barima/Waini

72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 532 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam

73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 533 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara

74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Public Works
- 3 Education Delivery
- 4 Health Services

Div. 538 Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni

79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 539 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
- 3 Public Works
- 4 Education Delivery
- 5 Health Services

Div. 540 Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Accountant General's Department

Div. 526 Ministry of Finance

08 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

- 1 Office of the Auditor General

Div. 505 - Codes 12001,24001, 25001, 44001 Auditor General

90 - PUBLIC DEBT

- 1 Public Debt

45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

1 Housing and Water

Div. 523 Ministry of Housing and Water

Div. 524 Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement Project

Div. 530 Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing

Div. 552 Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated

21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1 Ministry Administration

2 Crops and Livestock Support Services

3 Fisheries

4 Hydrometeorological Services

Div. 508 Ministry of Agriculture

Div. 509 Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project

Div. 510 Ministry of Agriculture -MMA III

Div. 512 Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fisheries

51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

1 Secretariat Services

2 Guyana Police Force

3 Guyana Prison Service

4 Police Complaints Authority

5 Guyana Fire Service

7 General Register Office

Div. 507 Ministry of Home Affairs

48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Social Services
- 3 Labour Administration

Div. 545 Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

Div. 546 Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP

52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

- 1 Main Office
- 2 Ministry Administration
- 3 Attorney General's Chambers
- 4 Office of the State Solicitor
- 5 Deeds Registry

Div. 514 Ministry of Legal Affairs

55 - SUPREME COURT

- 1 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 2 Magistrates' Department

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

- 1 Public Prosecutions

Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25007)

14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

- 1 Public Service Management

Div. 549 - Public Service Ministry

23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 Ministry Administration
 - 3 Tourism, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs
- Div. 529 Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

- 1 Amerindian Development
- Div. 551 - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION

- 1 Public Hospital

47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Diseases Control
 - 3 Primary Health Care Services
 - 4 Regional and Clinical Services
 - 5 Health Sciences Education
 - 6 Standards and Technical Services
 - 7 Rehabilitation Services
- Div. 516 Ministry of Health

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had completed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003 and had approved of them as printed.

The motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2003 was then put and carried.

BILL - First, Second and Third Readings

APPROPRIATION BILL 2003 - Bill No. 1/2003

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2003 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Minister of Finance, 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 Consolidate Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the financial year ending 31st December, 2003, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

THANKS TO THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker of the National Assembly expressed thanks to the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for suitably arranging the Convention Centre for the sittings of the National Assembly for the Budget Debate and the consideration of the Estimates.

He also expressed thanks to the Media and all those persons who assisted in making the 2003 Budget debate and consideration of the Estimates successful.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Members and himself, thanked the Speaker for ably preceding over the sittings of the Assembly during the Budget Debate and the consideration of the Estimates.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.16 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 14th April, 2003.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

9th April, 2003.