

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 31ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2004) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2004
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 (Absent)

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. 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

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) (Absent - on leave)

* 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.

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) (Absent)

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.

Mr. Neendkumar, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

*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 - on leave)

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.

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 2.17 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2004

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of the Public Service

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Minister of Health

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004, 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 13th April, 2004, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2004 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 14th April, 2004.

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 2004 Estimates of Expenditure immediately upon the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2004.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004.

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

- 011 Head Office Administration
 - 012 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
 - 013 Amerindian Development
 - 014 Public Policy
- Div. 501 Office of the President

09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS

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

10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

- 101 Teaching Service Commission
- Div 505 - Code 25008 Teaching Service Commission

11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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

53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

- 531 Defence Head Quarters
- Div. 501 - Code 12001 Guyana Defence Force

57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

571 Ombudsman

58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE

581 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

Div. 505 - Code 25009 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

021 Prime Minister's Secretariat

31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

311 Ministry Administration

312 Public Works

313 Communications and Transport

Div. 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Air

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

071 National Assembly

Div. 505 - Code 25003 Parliament Building

**15 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION**

151 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

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

04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

041 Ministry Administration

042 Foreign Relations

043 Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Div. 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

441 Ministry Administration

442 Culture

443 Youth

444 Sport

445 Youth, Entrepreneurial Skills Training

Div. 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

41- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

411 Main Office

412 National Education Policy

413 Ministry Administration

414 Training and Development

415 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

131 Main Office

132 Ministry Administration

133 Regional Development

Div. 527 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

711 Regional Administration and Finance

712 Public Works

713 Education

714 Health Services

Div. 531 Region 1: Barima/Waini

72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

721 Regional Administration and Finance

722 Agriculture

723 Public Works

724 Education

725 Health Services

Div. 532 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam

73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

731 Regional Administration and Finance

732 Agriculture

733 Public Works

734 Education

735 Health Services

Div. 533 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara

74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

741 Regional Administration and Finance

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education

745 Health Services

Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

754 Education

755 Health Services

Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

76- REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

764 Education

765 Health Services

Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

771 Regional Administration and Finance

772 Public Works

773 Education

774 Health Services

Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

741 Regional Administration and Finance

742 Agriculture

743 Public Works

744 Education

745 Health Services

Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

751 Regional Administration and Finance

752 Agriculture

753 Public Works

754 Education

755 Health Services

Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

76- REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

761 Regional Administration and Finance

762 Agriculture

763 Public Works

764 Education

765 Health Services

Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

771 Regional Administration and Finance

772 Public Works

773 Education

774 Health Services

Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

781 Regional Administration and Finance

782 Public Works

783 Education

784 Health Services

Div. 538 Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni

79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

791 Regional Administration and Finance

792 Agriculture

793 Public Works

794 Education

795 Health Services

Div. 539 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE

801 Regional Administration and Finance

802 Public Works

803 Education

804 Health Services

Div. 540 Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

031 Ministry Administration

032 Accountant General

Div. 526 Ministry of Finance

Div. 505 Ethnic Relations Commission

48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

481 Ministry Administration

482 Social Services

483 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

521 Main Office

522 Ministry Administration

523 Attorney General's Chambers

524 Office of the State Solicitor

525 Deeds Registry

Div. 514 Ministry of Legal Affairs

55 - SUPREME COURT

551 Supreme Court of Judicature

552 Magistrates' Department

Div. 514 Code 12002 Supreme Court

Div. 514 Code 25002 Equipment

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

561 Public Prosecutions

Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25007)

14- PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY

141 Public Service Management

Div. 549 Public Service Ministry

23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

- 231 Main Office
 - 232 Ministry Administration
 - 233 Commerce, Tourism, Industry and Consumer Affairs
- Div. 529 Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

16 - MINISTRY OF AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

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

46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION

- 461 Public Hospital
- Div. 516 Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation

47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- 471 Ministry Administration
 - 472 Disease Control
 - 473 Primary Health Care Services
 - 474 Regional and Clinical Services
 - 475 Health Sciences Education
 - 476 Standards and Technical Services
 - 477 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 2004 and had approval of them as printed.

The motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2004 was then put and carried.

BILL - First, Second and Third Readings

APPROPRIATION BILL 2004 - Bill No. 7/2004

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46 were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 2004 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On a motion 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 Consolidated 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, 2004, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

16th April, 2004.