

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 17TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2001

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, 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 - on leave)

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)

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 (Absent - on leave)

* 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)

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. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P. (Absent)

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)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

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

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

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

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

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

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

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Death of Mr. Arthur A. Alexander**

The Speaker referred to the recent death of Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, a former Deputy Speaker, and extended condolences to the relatives, pending the passing of the usual Resolution by the Assembly.

(ii) **Welcome After Recess**

As that was the first sitting after the recess, the Speaker took the opportunity of welcoming back and of extending good wishes to all Members of the Assembly, the Officials and the representatives of the media.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

The Hon. Clement Rohee, and

The Hon. Rudoph Insanally, for that day's sitting,

Mr. Raphael Trotman, up to the end of the year,

and

Mr. Andy Goveia, for that day's sitting.

(iv) Congratulations and Welcome to Deputy Clerk

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, at the invitation of the Government of India and with the approval of the Government of Guyana and himself, Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, attended a seven-week intensive Parliamentary Internship Training Programme at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training at the Lok Sabha Secretariat in New Delhi and at the State Legislature in Gujarat, from 21st September, to 9th November, 2001, that is, during the recess.

During the period of training, Mr. Isaacs was exposed to, among other topics, the Indian Political System, Salient Features of the Indian Constitution and the Indian Parliamentary Systems, Practices and Procedures.

Mr. Isaacs was presented with a Certificate of Orientation and a Certificate of Training from the Lok Sabha and from the Gujarat Legislature.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Isaacs and welcomed him back to the Table.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) ✓ By the Minister of Finance:

Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport:

- ✓ (i) Agreement between the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Government of the United States of America concerning Cooperation to suppress illicit traffic by sea and air.

(Circulated)

- ✓ (ii) Convention on the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.

(Circulated)

- ✓ (iii) Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(Circulated)

(3) ✓ By the Minister of the Public Service:

Annual Report of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

(4) ✓ By the Prime Minister:

Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation Order 2001 (No. 20 of 2001).

(Circulated)

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

Suspension of Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3)

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following motion was withdrawn:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 15th November, 2001, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 2001 - Bill No. 12 of 2001.

(Notice Paper No. 6(M5 Govt. 4) published 2001-11-08)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

1. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2001 -**
Bill No. 12/2001

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

2. **MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 13/2001**

The Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Medical Practitioners Act 1991.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

1. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2001 -
Bill No. 12/2001**

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local
Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the
postponement of elections of councillors of local
democratic organs.

2. **SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
(CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS) VALIDATION BILL 2001 -
Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001**

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

9.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to validate the constitution and proceedings of the Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, constituted pursuant to the declaration on 19th day of December, 1997 of the results of the national and regional elections, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 24.5.2001)

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

15th November, 2001.