

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

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 (Absent) WE

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 (Absent) WEF

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) \* to restart

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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. 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 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

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

Dr. Dalgleish 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. (Absent)

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) (Absent)

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)

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. Maurice B. Henry, Executive Secretary

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.05 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(i) **Leave:**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

The Hon. Clement Rohee,

Mr. Vincent Alexander,

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, and

Miss Lurlene Nestor

for that day's sitting.

(ii) **Death of Mother of Deputy Clerk**

The Speaker informed Members of the death in the United States of America of the mother of Mr. Sherlock Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly. He said that the body was expected to arrive in Guyana shortly for burial and that Mr. Isaacs was, therefore, on special leave in connection

with the burial arrangements. He advised Members that Mr. Maurice B. Henry, a former Deputy Clerk and now Executive Secretary in the Committee Secretariat, was assisting at the Table.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, he conveyed their deepest condolences to Mr. Isaacs.

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**

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

- ✓ Minutes of the Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection which was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2001.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- ✓ Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2001.

(Circulated)

(3) ✓ By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 2000.

(Circulated)

### **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

#### **MOTIONS**

#### **ITEM 1 - DEATH OF MR. ARTHUR ALONZO ALEXANDER, FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Mr. Arthur Alonzo Alexander and pays tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament as a Member and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly from 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1992 to 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1998:

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his bereaved family and relatives.

**(Notice Paper No. 7(M6 Opp 2) published 2001-12-04)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Mr. Ravindra Dev.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

**ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 2/2001**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$742,265,595, for the period 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 to 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

**(Paper presented on 29.11.2001)**

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was then put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

**RESOLVED:**

That this Assembly approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$742,265,595, for the period 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 to 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

**ITEM 3 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 3/2001**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:



**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That is Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,405,529,861, for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2001.

**(Paper presented on 29.11.2001)**

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was then put and carried.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

**RESOLVED:**

That this Assembly approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,405,529,861, for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2001.

**BILL - Report from Select Committee and Third Reading****ITEM 4 - MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001 - Bill No. 13/2001 published 15.11.2001**

On a motion by the Minister of Health -

- (i) The Report of the Special Select Committee on the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2001, was adopted, and
- (ii) The Medical Practitioner (Amendment) Bill 2001, was read the third time and passed as amended in the Special Select Committee on the Bill.



**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2.55 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.**

**6<sup>th</sup> December, 2001**