

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 20TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1993) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1993

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of
the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (43)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home
Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the
Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional
Development (Absent)

*The Hon. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance (Absent)

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister
of Education and Cultural Development

*The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General
and Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign
Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade,
Tourism and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Agriculture (Absent)

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office
of the President

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Finance

/....

*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic
 Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/
 Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
 Essequibo)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/
 Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P. a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo
 Islands/West Demerara)

(There is one vacancy)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the
 National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
 Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Miss Gwenneth A. Broutet, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

/....

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent - on leave)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., 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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Speaker informed Members that Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo had been appointed a Minister with effect from 16th October, 1993, and designated Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

The Speaker stated that Mr. Jagdeo was not an elected Member of the National Assembly but, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, he had, in accordance with article 105 of the Constitution, become a Member of the Assembly.

Mr. Jagdeo who was present made and subscribed the Oath of Office.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Jagdeo on his election as a Member of the National Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Resignation of Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo as a Minister

The Speaker announced that, at his request, Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, vacated the Office of Senior Minister of Information in the Office of the President, with effect from 1st November, 1993, to pursue legal studies. Mr. Nagamootoo, however, continued to be a Member of the National Assembly.

/.....

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended best wishes to Mr. Nagamootoo.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members for that day's sitting:-

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo,
Dr. Patrick McKenzie,
Dr. Clive Thomas, and
Mr. Matheson Williams

(iii) Distribution of Acts Nos. 16 to 19 and 21 of 1993
(Bills Nos. 15 to 18 and 22 of 1993)

The Speaker **announced** that Bills Nos. 15 to 18 of 1993, which were passed by the Assembly on 15th July, 1993, were assented to by the President on 30th July, 1993, and became Acts Nos. 16 to 19 of 1993. The four Acts were published in the Gazette on 14th August, 1993.

Bill No. 22 of 1993 which was passed by the Assembly on 30th September, 1993, was assented to by the President on 5th October, 1993, and became Act No. 21 of 1993. This Act was published in the Gazette on 5th October, 1993.

All five of these Acts were printed and copies thereof were distributed to Members at that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Speaker:

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Second Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 28th October, 1993.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Legal Affairs for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs:

(i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Prison Service for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

- (4) By the Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Development for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

- (5) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

National Policy for Occupational Safety and Health - September 1993.

(Circulated)

The Minister made a short statement on this Paper.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 24/1993

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

- (2) NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION BILL 1993 - Bill No. 25/1993

The Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment and functions of the National Sports Commission with responsibility for the promotion of sport and for purposes connected therewith.

/...

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ITEM 1 - FILLING OF VACANCY IN COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Speaker stated that with the resignation of Mr. Brindley H. Benn as a Member of the National Assembly, with effect from 7th July, 1993, Mr. Benn also vacated his seat in the Committee of Selection.

The Speaker stated that the Assembly was required, in accordance with Standing Order No. 72, to nominate another Member to the Committee of Selection, in the place of Mr. Benn.

On a proposal by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), Mr. Reuben Gilbert was nominated by the Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Committee of Selection.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT)

BILL 1993 - Bill No. 21/1993 published 3.8.93

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Financial Administration and
Audit Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
The Senior Minister of Agriculture
(Leader of the House)
and
The Minority Leader.

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

/.....

MOTION

ITEM 3 - AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be amended by the insertion of the following as Standing Order No. 70A:-

"70(A). Standing Committees

(1) The Committee of Selection may establish and appoint as many Standing Committees as it considers necessary.

(2) A Standing Committee shall consist of such Members of the Assembly as the Committee of Selection shall determine and shall appoint.

(3) The constitution of, procedure in and other matters concerning Standing Committees shall be as provided for in respect of Select Committees of the Assembly."

The motion was referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

BEST WISHES TO DR. CLIVE Y. THOMAS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Before the adjournment was taken, the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) extended best wishes to Dr. Clive Y. Thomas for a speedy recovery from his illness.

The Minority Leader also joined the Senior Minister in his good wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.35 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


D. C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

12th November, 1993.