

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 21ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1993) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 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 (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

*The 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

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

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*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 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. (Absent)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic
 Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 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) (Absent)
 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)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 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.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 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) (Absent)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 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)

(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

Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.

The Speaker informed Members that, following the resignation of Mr. Randolph Evans, the name of Edward DaSilva was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic List of Candidates and that Mr. DaSilva was, on 2nd December, 1993, declared an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

The Hon. Samuel Hinds
Mr. Desmond Hoyte
and
Mr. Winston Murray

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Senior Minister of Finance:

(i) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 2) Order 1993 (No. 22), made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 22nd October, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 13th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(ii) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) (No. 2) Order 1993 (No. 23), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on 22nd October, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 13th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(iii) Financial Paper No. 3/1993 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$435,154,851 for the period ended 1st December, 1993 (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund).

(Circulated)

(iv) Financial Paper No. 4/1993 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Capital Estimates totalling \$2,116,248,000 for 1993.

(Circulated)

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) named Thursday, 16th December, 1993 as the day for the consideration of the two Financial Papers.

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

State Paper - Proposals on the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation which was adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 72nd Session held in June 1986.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 1 - RAPE OFFENCES AGAINST WOMEN IN REGIONS 8 AND 9

By Mr. Matheson Williams:

- (i) Is the Minister informed of the high incidence of the offence of rape against women of Regions 8 and 9?
- (ii) If the answer is yes, is the Minister aware that Amerindian women are the main victims of these offences and that miners from across the border are main suspects?
- (iii) Further, is the Minister aware that in recent times the offence of rape is committed by persons who enter villages with vehicles and after violating females deprive communities of crops and animals?
- (iv) If the Minister has received information on this matter, will he say what action he intends to take thereon?

Written reply by the Senior Minister of Home Affairs
(Government Chief Whip)

- (i) The Minister has been informed by the police that in 1993 there were two reports of rape committed in Region 8. In Region 9 there was one report in 1992 and one in 1993. Reports also indicate that there were two indecent assault offences committed in 1992 in Region 8 and one in 1993. In Region 9, one indecent assault was reported in 1993.

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- (ii) According to the information received and based on reports made, three of the rape victims were Amerindian women and the other was a woman of mixed race. There is no evidence to indicate that the suspects were miners from across the border.
- (iii) Apart from reports related to cattle rustling in Region 9 the Minister of Home Affairs is not in receipt of any information that persons have entered villages with vehicles and deprived communities of crops and animals, after violating females.
- (iv) With respect to the four rape reports made to the police the Minister has been informed that in two cases persons were arrested and charged, and the cases are now pending trial; one is presently being investigated and in the other the suspect has not been apprehended.

As regards the indecent assault offences, two were already disposed of by the court, one is pending trial and the victim of the other requested no further police action.

With regards to the rustling situation, efforts have been made to mobilize the community in that area to assist the police in the fight against rustling. To this end a Community Policing Group was established on 5th November, 1993 - covering the North and South Savannahs and Central Rupununi. It should be noted, additionally, that the Guyanese and Brazilian police on the borders of the two countries have been co-operating in addressing this problem.

May I also take the opportunity to state:-

- (a) that the police is ready to make every effort to conduct investigation of reports of all crimes with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- (b) that it will be appreciated if Honourable members in possession of information requiring police intervention could bring same to the attention of the Commander of the respective division or the Commissioner of Police so that appropriate action could be pursued;

- (c) that practical steps have been taken to recruit interested Amerindians into the police force in an effort to strengthen policing work in, particularly, the Interior Regions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 23/1993 published 30.10.93, 6.11.93 and 13.11.93

Dr. Moti Lall presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Ordinance.

- (2) GUYANA MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (REPEAL) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 26/1993 published 4.12.93

The Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal the Guyana Manufacturing and Industrial Development Agency Act 1984 and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

- (3) MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1993 - Bill No. 27/1993

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to reform the law relating to abortion and to provide for matters connected therewith.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION BILL 1993 - Bill No. 25/1993
published 10.11.93

The Senior Minister of Education and Cultural
Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Deryck Bernard
Mr. Andy Gouveia

The Senior Minister of Education and Cultural
Development replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

MOTION

ITEM 2 - APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY
AMERINDIAN ACT

Mr. Matheson Williams moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That a Special Select Committee
of the National Assembly be appointed
to study the Amerindian Act and to make
recommendations for its early revision on
democratic lines, to enlarge the self-
determination of Amerindians.

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The Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. Nadir and Dr. McKenzie spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.51 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 16th December, 1993.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

3rd December, 1993.