

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 25TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 1994

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

\*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 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.

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 (Absent)

\*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.  
 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)  
 (Absent - on leave)  
 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  
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P. (Absent)  
 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  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.  
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.  
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)  
 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)  
 Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 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. 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.  
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad up to 16th February, 1994.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

Insurance (Variation of Deposit) Order 1994  
(No. 1 of 1994), made under section 18  
of the Insurance Act, Chapter 91:02, on  
8th December, 1993, and published in the  
Gazette on 12th January, 1994.

(Circulated)

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

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into  
the October 5, 1992 Disturbances.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 6 - ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN REGION 6

By Mr. David Subnauth:

Will the Prime Minister say when will Sandvoort, Maida, Cromarty, Eversham and Tarlogie, in Region 6, be provided with electricity from the national grid?

Written reply by the Prime Minister:

The Guyana Electricity Corporation has informed me that they are working to extend their service, and are planning to supply electricity to Sandvoort, Maida, Cromarty, Eversham and Tarlogie, in Region 6 by the end of this year, 1994.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly -

Notes that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting Guyana during February, 1994;

Welcomes a visit by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana;

Authorises the Speaker to appoint and to chair a Committee to consider the form which the visit to the National Assembly should take;

and

Empowers that Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the visit to the Assembly.

The motion was put and carried.

ITEM 2 - REFERRING OF MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1993  
TO SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

The Senior Minister of Health moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the present Government is committed to a process of open and transparent consultation in seeking to formulate legislation for the sensitive issue of the medical termination of pregnancy;

AND WHEREAS in pursuit of that process the Government facilitated an extensive public debate since May of 1993;

AND WHEREAS a Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill 1993 was presented to the National Assembly on 3rd December, 1993;

AND WHEREAS there have continued to be calls for further consultation and specifically for multi-party consultation;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 49(1) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly requires that before any Bill be referred to a Committee, it has to be considered and read a second time;

AND WHEREAS in response to the calls for further consultation, it is proposed to have the Bill considered by a Special Select Committee of the National Assembly before its second reading;

BE IT RESOLVED:

- (i) that Standing Order No. 49(1) be suspended in order to facilitate the placing of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill 1993 before a Special Select Committee without recourse to a substantive debate at this time;
- (ii) that in the exercise of its functions the Select Committee be empowered to invite and receive memoranda from members of the public or from organizations; and to co-opt into its service any persons who are deemed to have special skills relevant to the conduct of its business;

(iii) that the Select Committee, having examined the Bill and considered the submissions received, propose such recommendations and/or amendments to the Bill as it sees fit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the submission of the report of the Special Select Committee, the National Assembly should proceed with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Bill in accordance with the Standing Orders.

The following amendment was moved by Mr. Nadir but was not seconded.

Deletion of the first and second WHEREAS Clauses and of the word "AND" at the beginning of the third WHEREAS Clause.

Dr. Faith Harding spoke to the motion.  
Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Health replied.  
The motion was then put and carried.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -  
No. 1/1994 published 8.1.94

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Act to vest the power to supply water to the city of Georgetown in the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners and to make the Commissioners an autonomous body.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin  
Dr. Clive Thomas  
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

The Prime Minister replied.  
Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

The following typographical errors were corrected:

Clause 4 (page 4)

Deletion of the words "by the east" in the fifth line of paragraph (b).

Substitution of the word "engineer" for "egineer" in the third line of paragraph (d).

Clause 8 (Page 5)

Substitution of the word "house-sewer" for the word "house-owner" in the last line of subsection (2) of the new section 6.

Clause 10 (Page 8)

Substitution of the letters "(b)" and "(c)" for the letters "(c)" and "(d)" at the beginning of the paragraphs lettered "(c)" and "(d)".

Clause 11 (Page 9)

Substitution of "9A" for "11" at the beginning of the subsection numbered "11" in the first line.

Clause 12 (Page 9)

Insertion of the word "therefor-" after the word "substituted " in the second line.

Insertion of the number "10." before the subsection numbered "(1)".

Clause 13 (Page 9)

Substitution of the word "respects" for "respecs" in the second line.

Clause 24 (Page 14)

Substitution of the word "cleanses" for "cleanness" in the sixth line of paragraph (d).

The Clauses were then considered.

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The Prime Minister moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion of the words "measured or" between the words "the" and "estimated" in the last line of paragraph (g).

Clause 4 was then passed as corrected and as amended.

Clause 5

The Prime Minister moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion of the word "AND" between the words "WORKS" and "WATER".

Clause 5 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 6 and 7 were passed as printed.

Clause 8 was passed as corrected.

Clause 9 was passed as printed.

Clause 10

The Prime Minister moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Substitution of the following for paragraph (a) (i):-

"(i) two elected members of the Council to be nominated by the Council, one of whom shall be a Commissioner of the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board;".

Clause 10 was then passed as corrected and as amended.

Clauses 11, 12 and 13 were passed as corrected.

Clauses 14 to 23 were passed as printed.

Clause 24 was passed as corrected.

Clauses 25 to 28 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as corrected and as amended.

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MOTION

ITEM 4 - GUYANA'S AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the office of Ambassador should be filled by persons of impeccable character;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has appointed Mr. Satyadeo Sawh to be Ambassador to Venezuela;

AND WHEREAS the said Mr. Satyadeo Sawh was convicted under Section 367/368 of the Canadian Penal Code in a Canadian Court on August 21, 1989;

AND WHEREAS both the Prime Minister and the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs were apprised of Mr. Sawh's conviction and, notwithstanding, supported his appointment to the office of Ambassador to Venezuela;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly condemns this blatant disregard for international diplomatic norms and deplors the lack of concern for our special relationship with our neighbour Venezuela;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls for the withdrawal of Mr. Satyadeo Sawh, the Ambassador designate to Venezuela.

Mrs. Riehl also moved the following amendment to the motion:

Deletion of the word "designate" in the last Resolved Clause.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie seconded the motion.

Dr. Clive Thomas and Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

Mr. Dunstan Barrow and Mr. Moses Nagamootoo spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mrs. Clarissa Riehl replied.

The motion was then put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.28 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.

20th January, 1994.