

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 26TH 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, 3RD FEBRUARY, 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 (Absent - on leave)

*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

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 Members

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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 - Pomeroun/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 - on leave)
 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)
 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.
 1Dr. Patrick L.McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent - on Leave)
 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)
 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. (Absent - on leave)
 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)

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(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P.

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

(iii) The United Force (i)

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 2.05 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

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

Rev. Dr. Dale Bisnauth,

Mrs. Janet Jagan,

Mr. Eugene LaCruz,

Mr. Sase Narain,

Dr. Kenneth King,

Mr. Andy Gouveia

and to

Mr. Samad Baksh up to 19th February

(ii) Birthday of Mr. Frank Alston Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

The Speaker announced that today is the 62nd Birthday of Mr. Frank Alston Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly. He also stated that Mr. Narain served 43 of his 62 years in the National Assembly, moving up from the position of an Ordinary Class II Clerk to Clerk of the National Assembly.

On behalf of Members and himself he wished the Clerk a happy birthday.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Speaker:

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Tuesday, 1st February, 1994.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture:

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

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry:

(i) Notification under section 66 of the Public Corporations Act 1988 (No. 21 of 1988), dated 21st January, 1994, and published in the Gazette on 28th January, 1994.

(Circulated)

(ii) Design and Graphics Limited (Dissolution and Transfer of Assets and Liabilities) Order 1994 (No. 4 of 1994), made under the Public Corporations Act 1988 (No. 21 of 1988), on 24th January, 1994, and published in the Gazette on 28th January, 1994.

(Circulated)

(iii) Guyana Glassworks Limited (Transfer of Property) Order 1994 (No. 5 of 1994), made under the Public Corporations Act 1988 (No. 21 of 1988), on 26th January, 1994, and published in the Gazette on 28th January, 1994.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 3/1994

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
amend the Public Utilities
Commission Act 1990.

(2) REGISTRATION OF LANDLORDS BILL 1994 - Bill No. 4/1994

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to
provide for the registration
of Landlords.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - GUYANA GOLD BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - Bill No. 2/1994
published 15.1.94

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Guyana Gold Board Act 1981.

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

Thereafter, the Prime Minister 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.

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MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - AFFIRMATION OF THE INSURANCE (VARIATION OF DEPOSIT)
ORDER 1994 (No. 1 of 1994)

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 18(2) of the Insurance Act, Chapter 91:02 affirm the Insurance (Variation of Deposit) Order 1994 (No. 1 of 1994), which was made on 8th December, 1993. Mr. Winston Murray and Dr. Clive Thomas spoke to the motion. Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied. The motion was put and carried.

ITEM 3- DEVELOPMENT OF A CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CHARTER OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, at a Special Meeting in October, 1992, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, agreed to the development of a Caribbean Community Charter of Civil Society which would provide a nominative basis for the Community and would deal, inter alia, with matters such as a free press, a fair and open democratic process, the effective functioning of the parliamentary system, morality in public affairs, respect for fundamental civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of women and children, respect for religious diversity, and greater accountability and transparency in governance;

AND WHEREAS a draft of the Charter was considered at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Nassau, The Bahamas, in July, 1993, and it was agreed to adopt the Charter as prepared as a basis for the holding of consultations on it at the national level, preparatory to the preparation of a final draft of the Charter;

AND WHEREAS Cabinet considered the draft Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community and noted its contents on August 4, 1993;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly wholeheartedly welcomes the development of the Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community and gives its fullest support to the process of national consultations.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl and Dr. Clive Thomas spoke to the motion.

Mr. Reuben Gilbert was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At. 4.34 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Reuben Gilbert continued and concluded his speech.

Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was put and carried.

ITEM -4 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY COURT OF APPEAL

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, at a Special Meeting in October, 1992, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, considered the recommendations of the West Indian Commission on the establishment of a Caribbean Community Supreme Court with original jurisdiction in matters arising under the Treaty of Chaguaramas, including the issuing of orders to facilitate the implementation of Caribbean Community decisions, and with an appellate jurisdiction from the Courts of Member States desirous of abolishing the jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in respect of appeals from the superior courts of those States;

AND WHEREAS the Conference decided that those Member States desirous of establishing the Court with an appellate jurisdiction should indicate as early as possible and that the matter of an original jurisdiction for the Court should be the subject of an indepth study in order to facilitate the taking of a decision by member States;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana, at the Fourth Inter-Sessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government, in Roseau, Dominica, in March, 1993, supported the establishment of the Court as a Court of Appeal with an appellate jurisdiction only;

AND WHEREAS the Conference noted that the Caribbean Community Supreme Court as an Appellate Court could be established in Trinidad and Tobago by the Member States which are desirous of so doing, namely, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly looks forward to the urgent establishment of a Caribbean Court of Appeal in order to provide a final Appellate Court for the determination of appeals from the courts of Guyana.

Mr. Arthur Alexander and Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was put and carried.

ITEM 5 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community decided in St. Kitts and Nevis, in July, 1991, to establish the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana became a signatory to the Agreement Establishing the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians on February 19, 1992, at Kingston, Jamaica;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, having considered the aforesaid Agreement, confirmed and ratified the same and undertook faithfully to perform the stipulations therein;

AND WHEREAS the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana signed the Instrument of Ratification on October 8, 1993, which was duly deposited with the Caribbean Community Secretariat, in Georgetown.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly unanimously welcomes the Establishment of the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians and endorses the Government of Guyana's ratification of the aforesaid Agreement;

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly gives its full support to the activities of the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Following an intimation by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), it was agreed that, unless it becomes necessary for the Assembly to meet earlier, the next sitting would be held during the morning of Monday, 21st February, 1994, on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

At 5.56 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1994-02-03