

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 29TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 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
(Absent - on leave)

*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

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
(Absent - on leave)

*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.
 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)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 (Absent - on leave)
 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. 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.
 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. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)
 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) (Absent)

(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.

OATHS

Mr. Mohamed Idris Deen, M.P.

The Speaker stated that following the resignation of Mr. Sase Narain from the National Assembly the name of Mohamed Idris Deen was extracted from the People's National Congress List of Candidates and that Mr. Deen was, on 3rd March, 1994, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the Hon. Asgar Ally and Mr. Bagot Paul for that day's sitting.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE

A request by Mr. Arthur A. Alexander to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly, in the absence of Mr. Andy Gouveia, was disallowed by the Speaker.

/.....

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 5/1994 published 24.2.94

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act, the Local Democratic Organs Act 1980 and the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Act 1990 and to repeal the Local Democratic Organs (Elections) Act 1990.

Mr. Robert Corbin spoke to the motion.

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas 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.

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Hukumchand

Mr. Khadim Bacchus

Mr. Winston S. Murray

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney

Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.32 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet continued and concluded her speech.

/.....

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir
 Mr. Andy Gouveia
 Mr. David Subnauth
 Mr. Philip Bynoe
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave
 Mr. John A. Fredericks
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan
 Mr. Reynold N. David
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow
 Dr. Faith A. Harding
 Miss Amna Ally
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander
 Mr. Ivan Peters
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King
 Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nadir | Dr. Thomas |
| Mr. Ramrattan | Mr. Peters |
| Mr. Ramdass | Mr. Fredericks |
| Mr. LaCruz | Miss Brouet |
| Mr. DeSouza | Miss Richards |
| Mr. Baldeo | Mr. Hukumchand |
| Mr. Baksh | Mr. Gouveia |
| Mr. Bacchus | Mr. Bynoe |
| Mr. DaSilva | Mr. Tyndall |
| Mr. Gilbert | Mr. Deen |
| Mr. Zephyr | Mr. David |
| Mrs. Sukhai | Mr. Subnauth |
| Mr. Rodney | Mr. Barrow |
| Mr. Ramotar | Mr. Ng-See-Quan |
| Mr. Ramjattan | Mr. Alexander |
| Dr. Lall | Miss Persico |
| Mrs. James | Miss Ally |
| Dr. Hanoman | Dr. Harding |
| Mrs. Edwards | Mr. Bernard |
| Mr. Chand | Dr. King |
| Mr. Baksh | Mrs. Riehl |
| Mr. Husman Alli | Dr. McKenzie |
| Mr. Fazil Ali | Mr. Murray |
| Mr. Belgrave | Mr. Corbin |
| Mr. Nagamootoo | Mr. Hoyte |
| Mrs. Chandarpal | |
| Mr. Collymore | |
| Mr. Chan | |
| Miss Teixeira | |
| Mr. Rohee | |
| Mr. Nokta | |
| Mr. Mohamed | |
| Mr. Persaud | |
| Mr. Hinds | |

Total 34

Total 25

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 was passed as printed.

Clause 3 was passed as printed on the following division:

| FOR | <u>AGAINST</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nadir | Dr. Thomas |
| Mr. Ramrattan | Mr. Peters |
| Mr. Ramdass | Mr. Fredericks |
| Mr. LaCruz | Miss Brouet |
| Mr. DeSouza | Miss Richards |
| Mr. Baldeo | Mr. Hukumchand |
| Mr. Baksh | Mr. Gouveia |
| Mr. Bacchus | Mr. Bynoe |
| Mr. DaSilva | Mr. Tyndall |
| Mr. Gilbert | Mr. Deen |
| Mr. Zephyr | Mr. David |
| Mrs. Sukhai | Mr. Subnauth |
| Mr. Rodney | Mr. Barrow |
| Mr. Ramotar | Mr. Ng-See-Quan |
| Mr. Ramjattan | Mr. Alexander |
| Dr. Lall | Miss Persico |
| Mrs. James | Miss Ally |
| Dr. Hanoman | Dr. Harding |
| Mrs. Edwards | Mr. Bernard |
| Mr. Chand | Dr. King |
| Mr. Baksh | Mrs. Riehl |
| Mr. Husman Alli | Dr. McKenzie |
| Mr. Fazil Ali | Mr. Murray |
| Mr. Belgrave | Mr. Corbin |
| Mr. Nagamootoo | Mr. Hoyte |
| Mrs. Chandarpal | |
| Mr. Collymore | |
| Mr. Chan | |
| Miss Teixeira | |
| Mr. Rohee | |
| Mr. Nokta | |
| Mr. Mohamed | |
| Mr. Persaud | |
| Mr. Hinds | |
| Total 34 | Total 25 |

Clause 4 was passed as printed on the following division:

/:.....

FOR

Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Ramrattan
 Mr. Ramdass
 Mr. LaCruz
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Baldeo
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Bacchus
 Mr. DaSilva
 Mr. Gilbert
 Mr. Zephyr
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Mr. Rodney
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Dr. Lall
 Mrs. James
 Dr. Hanoman
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Husman Alli
 Mr. Fazil Ali
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Collymore
 Mr. Chan
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. Mohamed
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

Total 34

AGAINST

Dr. Thomas
 Mr. Peters
 Mr. Fredericks
 Miss Brouet
 Miss Richards
 Mr. Hukumchand
 Mr. Gouveia
 Mr. Bynoe
 Mr. Tyndall
 Mr. Deen
 Mr. David
 Mr. Subnauth
 Mr. Barrow
 Mr. Ng-See-Quan
 Mr. Alexander
 Miss Persico
 Miss Ally
 Dr. Harding
 Mr. Bernard
 Dr. King
 Mrs. Riehl
 Dr. McKenzie
 Mr. Murray
 Mr. Corbin
 Mr. Hoyte

Total 25

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Clause 6 -

The following amendment by Mr. Corbin was put
 and negatived:

Substitution of the words "The Local Democratic
 Organs Act No. 22 of 1990 shall" for the words

"The provisions of sections 2, 4, 5 and 6 of
 the Local Authorities (Elections)(Amendment)
 Act 1990 shall mutatis mutandis".

/....

Clause 6 was passed as printed on the following
division:

| FOR | <u>AGAINST</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nadir | Dr. Thomas |
| Mr. Ramrattan | Mr. Peters |
| Mr. Ramdass | Mr. Fredericks |
| Mr. LaCruz | Miss Brouet |
| Mr. DeSouza | Miss Richards |
| Mr. Baldeo | Mr. Hukumchand |
| Mr. Baksh | Mr. Gouveia |
| Mr. Bacchus | Mr. Bynoe |
| Mr. DaSilva | Mr. Tyndall |
| Mr. Gilbert | Mr. Deen |
| Mr. Zephyr | Mr. David |
| Mrs. Sukhai | Mr. Subnauth |
| Mr. Rodney | Mr. Barrow |
| Mr. Ramotar | Mr. Ng-See-Quan |
| Mr. Ramjattan | Mr. Alexander |
| Dr. Lall | Miss Persico |
| Mrs. James | Miss Ally |
| Dr. Hanoman | Dr. Harding |
| Mrs. Edwards | Mr. Bernard |
| Mr. Chand | Dr. King |
| Mr. Baksh | Mrs. Riehl |
| Mr. Husman Alli | Dr. McKenzie |
| Mr. Fazil Ali | Mr. Murray |
| Mr. Belgrave | Mr. Corbin |
| Mr. Nagamootoo | Mr. Hoyte |
| Mrs. Chandarpal | |
| Mr. Collymore | |
| Mr. Chan | |
| Miss Teixeira | |
| Mr. Rohee | |
| Mr. Nokta | |
| Mr. Mohamed | |
| Mr. Persaud | |
| Mr. Hinds | |
| Total 34 | Total 25 |

Clause 7 was put and carried with the following 59
Members present voting in favour thereof:

/.....

| FOR | FOR |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nadir | Mr. Ramrattan |
| Dr. Thomas | Mr. Ramdass |
| Mr. Peters | Mr. LaCruz |
| Mr. Fredericks | Mr. DeSouza |
| Miss Brouet | Mr. Baldeo |
| Miss Richards | Mr. Baksh |
| Mr. Hukumchand | Mr. Bacchus |
| Mr. Gouveia | Mr. DaSilva |
| Mr. Bynoe | Mr. Gilbert |
| Mr. Tyndall | Mr. Zephyr |
| Mr. Deen | Mrs. Sukhai |
| Mr. David | Mr. Rodney |
| Mr. Subnauth | Mr. Ramotar |
| Mr. Barrow | Mr. Ramjattan |
| Mr. Ng-See-Quan | Dr. Lall |
| Mr. Alexander | Mrs. James |
| Miss Persico | Dr. Hanoman |
| Miss Ally | Mrs. Edwards |
| Dr. Harding | Mr. Chand |
| Mr. Bernard | Mr. Baksh |
| Dr. King | Mr. Husman Alli |
| Mrs. Riehl | Mr. Fazil Ali |
| Dr. McKenzie | Mr. Belgrave |
| Mr. Murray | Mr. Nagamootoo |
| Mr. Corbin | Mrs. Chandarpal |
| Mr. Hoyte | Mr. Collymore |
| | Mr. Chan |
| | Miss Teixeira |
| | Mr. Rohee |
| | Mr. Nokta |
| | Mr. Mohamed |
| | Mr. Persaud |
| | Mr. Hinds |

Clause 8 was passed as printed.

Clause 9

The following amendment by the Prime Minister was put and carried:

Insertion of the following before the full stop at the end of the clause:

Cap. 28:03
No. 22 of 1990

"and the provisions of the Local Authorities (Elections) Act, amended by the Local Democratic Organs (Elections) Act 1990, shall stand as they were before the coming into operation of the Local Democratic Organs (Amendment) Act 1990".

Clause 9 was then passed as amended on the following division:

| FOR | AGAINST |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nadir | Dr. Thomas |
| Mr. Ramrattan | Mr. Peters |
| Mr. Ramdass | Mr. Fredericks |
| Mr. LaCruz | Miss Brouet |
| Mr. DeSouza | Miss Richards |
| Mr. Baldeo | Mr. Hukumchand |
| Mr. Baksh | Mr. Gouveia |
| Mr. Bacchus | Mr. Bynoe |
| Mr. DaSilva | Mr. Tyndall |
| Mr. Gilbert | Mr. Deen |
| Mr. Zephyr | Mr. David |
| Mrs. Sukhai | Mr. Subnauth |
| Mr. Rodney | Mr. Barrow |
| Mr. Ramotar | Mr. Ng-See-Quan |
| Mr. Ramjattan | Mr. Alexander |
| Dr. Lall | Miss Persico |
| Mrs. James | Miss Ally |
| Dr. Hanoman | Dr. Harding |
| Mrs. Edwards | Mr. Bernard |
| Mr. Chand | Dr. King |
| Mr. Baksh | Mrs. Riehl |
| Mr. Husman Alli | Dr. McKenzie |
| Mr. Fazil Ali | Mr. Murray |
| Mr. Belgrave | Mr. Corbin |
| Mr. Nagamootoo | Mr. Hoyte |
| Mrs. Chandarpal | |
| Mr. Collymore | |
| Mr. Chan | |
| Miss Teixeira | |
| Mr. Rohee | |
| Mr. Nokta | |
| Mr. Mohamed | |
| Mr. Persaud | |
| Mr. Hinds | |
| Total 34 | Total 25 |

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended, on the following division:

/....

FOR

Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Ramrattan
 Mr. Ramdass
 Mr. LaCruz
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Baldeo
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Bacchus
 Mr. DaSilva
 Mr. Gilbert
 Mr. Zephyr
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Mr. Rodney
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Dr. Lall
 Mrs. James
 Dr. Hanoman
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Husman Alli
 Mr. Fazil Ali
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Collymore
 Mr. Chan
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. Mohamed
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

Total 34

AGAINST

Dr. Thomas
 Mr. Peters
 Mr. Fredericks
 Miss Brouet
 Miss Richards
 Mr. Hukumchand
 Mr. Gouveia
 Mr. Bynoe
 Mr. Tyndall
 Mr. Deen
 Mr. David
 Mr. Subnauth
 Mr. Barrow
 Mr. Ng-See-Quan
 Mr. Alexander
 Miss Persico
 Miss Ally
 Dr. Harding
 Mr. Bernard
 Dr. King
 Mrs. Riehl
 Dr. McKenzie
 Mr. Murray
 Mr. Corbin
 Mr. Hoyte

Total 25

ADJOURNMENT

At 1.35 a.m. on Saturday, 5th March, 1994, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 7th March, 1994.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown.

5th March, 1994.