

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE 37TH 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, 14TH APRIL, 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 (Absent)

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

\*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, 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  
(Absent-on leave)

\* **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.  
 Kr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.  
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.  
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.  
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.  
 Mr. Kadim 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)  
 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. (Absent)  
 Dr. 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. (Absent)  
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.  
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.  
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P. (Absent-on leave)  
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)  
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)  
 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.  
 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/Mahaice)

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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)

(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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

- (i) The Hon. Asgar Ally
- (ii) The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo
- (iii) Dr. Kenneth King
- (iv) Miss Jean Persico
- (v) Mr. Andy Gouveia

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Guyana Electricity Corporation - Wartsila Project

The Prime Minister made the following Statement:-

"The Prime Minister would like to report to this august house and the Guyanese people that there is no reason for concern about the ability of the new 11MW Wartsila station to perform as expected.

The Prime Minister has been advised that:

The Wartsila Plant achieved substantial completion on March 25, 1994 and was, thereafter, subjected to performance and capability testing which was part of the terms and conditions of the Turn Key Contract.

These tests proved to be successful, and the plant was accepted on March 29, 1994 and officially commissioned on March 31, 1994. As part of the operational

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procedures the plant was required to undergo a mini service/post commissioning check some where between 50 to 100 hrs of operation. As a result, the plant was taken out of service on April 2, 1994 in order to address these issues. Normally this service would have required about three days.

It is unfortunate that this schedule occurred over an extended holiday period which resulted in the generating sets being returned somewhat later than was expected. The first set was returned to service on Wednesday, April 6 and the second on the evening of that day.

Wartsila which is also our Operation & Maintenance Contractor has indicated that the long holiday week-end contributed to the extended down time of the Plant. Some of the spares could not be located when the units were shut down. These were located later, but the required amount was flown in whilst the search was on.

It should, be understood that the agreements with Wartsila require that the plant achieve an 80% availability, which to date it has achieved despite the fact that it is still in the initial postcommissioning period, a time when the availability is expected to be somewhat below the normal since the plant may experience initial teething problems.

It is still too short a period since the plant was put into commercial operation for a statistical evaluation of its performance to be carried out - a more significant judgement of the performance of the plant, may have to await an extended period, probably three (3) to six (6) months.

With respect to the cable connection from the Wartsila plant to the existing GEC Substation, the design by the GEC catered for an underground cable which was ordered early in October, 1993 and was to be shipped late in December 1993 with an expected time of arrival of mid-January, thereby allowing sufficient time to complete the vital interconnection. Due to reasons beyond the control of the GEC and the cable Supplier (shipping delays) the cable arrived on April 2, 1994. GEC when it learnt that there would be this delay, installed a temporary connection which however has a safe carrying limit of only 8MW.

Since its arrival the cable was transported to site and the necessary preparatory work was completed to effect final connection. However, this would require a shut down of the station which is scheduled once the third unit at the Kingston Power Station is recommissioned, sometime over the weekend of April 16, 17. Further checks and adjustments of the Wartsila unit are scheduled for the same time. A downtime of about two days is scheduled to carry out the work required."

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

**Short Sittings of the National Assembly**

A request by Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie for leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the question of short Sittings of the Assembly was not allowed by the Speaker as the matter did not qualify.

(At this stage the Members of the People's National Congress withdrew from the Chamber).

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**NATIONAL PARKS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -  
Bill No. 9/1994 published 5.4.94**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
National Parks Commission Act 1977.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR  
ORGANISATION**

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposals setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society;

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approve the conclusions set out in the State Papers on the following conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 71st and 72nd sessions of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1985 and June, 1986, respectively:-

- (i) Labour Statistics Convention, 1985, No. 160
- (ii) Labour Statistics Recommendation, 1985, No. 170
- (iii) Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985, No. 161
- (iv) Occupational Health Services Recommendation, 1985, No. 171
- (v) ~~Asbestos~~ Convention, 1986, No. 162
- (vi) Asbestos Recommendation, 1986, No. 172;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that the decision of the National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

#### Meetings of Committees

Before the adjournment was taken, the Speaker reminded Members of the following two Select Committees of the Assembly of the Meetings of those Committees which were scheduled to be held in his Office after the Sitting:-

- (i) The Committee appointed to study and report on the Amerindian Act.
- (ii) The Standing Orders Committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 2.30 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.

14th April, 1994