

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 27TH JUNE, 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.

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 (Absent)

Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent)
 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. (Absent)
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P. (Absent)
 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)
 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. (Absent)
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Anna 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 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. (Absent)
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, C.C.H., 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 from that day's Sitting had been granted to the following Members:

Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth

Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza

Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) GUYANA RICE DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL 1994 - Bill No. 12/1994

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the regulation of the manufacture and marketing of rice, for securing effectively the development of the rice industry through the establishment of the Guyana Rice Development Board and for matters connected therewith.

(2) FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - Bill No. 13/1994

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Income Tax Act, the Income Tax
(In Aid of Industry) Act, the
Corporation Tax Act and the Capital
Gains Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 EXTENSION OF LIFE OF CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) ACT 1993
(ACT NO. 21 of 1993)

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:-

WHEREAS the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1993 (Act No. 21 of 1993), for the purpose of facilitating the holding of local government elections in 1994, altered the Constitution temporarily -

- (i) by substituting a new article 161 providing for the composition of the Elections Commission;
- (ii) by inserting a new article 161A empowering the Elections Commission to appoint the Chief Election Officer and all other officers and staff as may be necessary for the conduct of the local government elections;
- (iii) by substituting for paragraph (5) of article 226 another paragraph fixing the quorum of the Elections Commission as consisting of the Chairman and not less than two-thirds of the other appointed members;

AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding section 2 of the said Constitution (Amendment) Act 1993, paragraph (7) of the inserted article 161A stipulates that the said Act shall stand repealed on the 30th June, 1994, unless its life is extended by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it has been recognised that it would be impracticable for local government elections to be held on or before 30th June, 1994 because of the inordinately long time taken to renovate the building housing the Elections Commission to meet the required standard to accommodate the Commission's electronic equipment, the extension of time granted by the Elections Commission for the hearing of claims and objections, and the additional time needed to train the new operators of the said equipment;

AND WHEREAS it is therefore necessary for the life of the said Constitution (Amendment) Act 1993 to be extended for a period of six months commencing from 1st July, 1994, thus ipso facto extending the life of the Elections Commission to enable it to complete the task of preparation for, and the holding of, local government elections for which it was specifically appointed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with paragraph (7) of article 161A of the Constitution approve the extension of the life of the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1993 for a period of six months commencing from 1st July, 1994 to give the Elections Commission the needed time to make all necessary preparations for, and to conduct, local government elections in 1994.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works,
Communications and Regional Development

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried with all of the following fifty-three Members present voting in favour thereof:

/...

FOR	FOR
Mr. Nadir	Mr. DeSouza
Mr. Williams	Mr. Baldeo
Dr. Thomas	Mr. Samad Baksh
Mr. Peters	Mr. Bacchus
Miss Brouet	Mr. Gilbert
Miss Richards	Mr. Zephyr
Mr. Hukumchand	Mr. Rodney
Mr. Gouveia	Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Bynoe	Dr. Lall
Mr. Tyndall	Mrs. James
Mrs. DeJesus	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Deen	Mr. Chand
Mr. Subnauth	Mr. Snaik Baksh
Mr. Barrow	Mr. Husman Alli
Mr. Alexander	Mr. Belgrave
Miss Persico	Mr. Nagamootoo
Miss Ally	Mrs. Chandarpal
Dr. Harding	Mr. Collymore
Mr. Bernard	Mrs. Jagan
Dr. King	Mr. Chan
Dr. McKenzie	Miss Teixeira
Mr. Murray	Mr. Rohee
Mr. Corbin	Mr. Nokta
Mr. Hoyte	Mr. Mohamed
Mr. Ramratan	Mr. Persaud
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Hinds
Mr. LaCruz	
	53
Total	

BILL Second Reading

ITEM 2 - DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 11/1994 published 13.6.94

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House),
 moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal
 the Drainage and Irrigation Board
 (Transfer of Functions) Act 1983 and
 to amend the Drainage and Irrigation
 Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Patrick McKenzie
 Dr. Clive Thomas
 Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader
 of the House) 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.

Bill - Deferred**ITEM 3 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 3/1994 published 5.2.94**

At the request of the Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred to Thursday, 30th June, 1994.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Public Utilities Commission Act
1990.

MOTION**ITEM 4 - NEW GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER**

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS there is widespread concern over the increase of poverty and hunger and that during this post-Cold War era human development should be accorded the highest priority in national policies and in international development cooperation; and

WHEREAS in December 1992 the United Nations General Assembly, convinced that solving humanitarian problems required international cooperation and harmonization of international action adopted a resolution entitled; "New International Humanitarian Order" urging Governments to provide comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Cyprus in October 1993 considered the matter "The emergence of a New Global Humanitarian Order" and agreed to establish a high-level inter-governmental group to examine specific ways in which the Commonwealth can contribute to the work of the international community; and

WHEREAS Guyana is a member of that Commonwealth high-level intergovernmental group; and

WHEREAS Guyana introduced an item on the matter at the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community at St. Vincent and the Grenadines in March 1994 which agreed to work together at the regional level and in concert with the Commonwealth high-level group to advance the concept globally; and

WHEREAS the Conference of Heads at the said meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines supported a proposal by Dr. Carlos Saul Menem, President of the Argentine Republic, to establish an International Volunteer Corps for the Fight against Hunger; and

8.

WHEREAS the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, has written to a number of Heads of State advancing proposals for a development strategy for the eradication of poverty, which took account of certain recommendations of the Human Development Programme, and seeking the support of Heads of State for a global response to these global problems:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly support the call for a global strategy to combat poverty and hunger as a priority in the New Global Humanitarian Order.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Clive Thomas

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.19 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 30th June, 1994.



D/C JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

27th June, 1994.