

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 82ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 26th JULY, 1996
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, C.C.H., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., 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 and Communications

*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 (Absent - on leave)

*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

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

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 (Absent - on leave)

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Local Government

*Non-elected Member

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, C.C.H., 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)
 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) (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 (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No.7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 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) (Absent)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No.4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, 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.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

The Hon. Samuel Hinds up to 11th August, 1996,

The Hon. Bernard DeSantos up to 31st October, 1996,

Mrs. Janet Jagan,

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal,

Mr. Desmond Hoyte, and

Mr. Dunstan Barrow

for that sitting, and

Mr. Idris Deen up to 10th August, 1996.

(ii) Appointment of Dr. Kenneth King as Chief Whip

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he was advised by the Minority Leader that Dr. Kenneth King has been appointed Chief Whip with effect from 1st March, 1996.

(iii) Sympathy on Death of Mr. Nagamootoo's Mother

The Speaker, on behalf of himself and Members of the Assembly, extended deepest sympathy to the Hon. Moses Nagamootoo on the death of his mother.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs,
on behalf of the Prime Minister:
Annual Report of the Teaching Service
Commission for the year 1995.
(Circulated)
- (2) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the
House), on behalf of the Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs:
✓ Annual Report of the Ministry of Legal
Affairs for the year 1994.
(Circulated)
- (3) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social
Security:
✓ Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, Human
Services and Social Security for the year 1995.
(Circulated)
- (4) By the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs:
(i) United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change signed by Guyana on June
13, 1992, and ratified on August 29, 1994.
(Circulated)
(ii) Convention on Biological Diversity signed
by Guyana on June 13, 1992, and ratified
on August 13, 1994.
(Circulated)
- (5) By the Senior Minister of Finance:
(i) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly
and Special Offices (Emoluments) (No. 2)
Order 1996 (No. 25 of 1996), made under
section 8 of the Ministers, Members of
the National Assembly and Special Offices
Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on 19th
June, 1996.
(Circulated)
✓ (ii) Annual performance Report of the Office of
the Auditor General for the year 1995.
(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(1) FLOODING IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF GUYANA

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) made a statement on the flood situation in the various Regions of Guyana.

(2) REMOVAL OF RADIUM FROM PUBLIC HOSPITAL, GEORGETOWN

The Senior Minister of Health made a statement on the removal of radium from the Public Hospital, Georgetown.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Flooding in various Regions of Guyana

A request by Dr. Kenneth King to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the flood situation in Guyana was allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over to 4.30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

CIVIL AVIATION BILL 1996 - Bill No. 13/1996 published 20.07.96

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision in respect of the regulation and control of Civil Aviation in Guyana and for purposes connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS Second Reading

1. REVENUE AUTHORITY BILL 1996 - Bill No. 10/1996 published 11.5.96

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish and define the functions of a Revenue Authority: to define the functions of the Governing Board of the Authority: to transfer from the Government to the Authority the functions and powers of the Inland Revenue Department and the Customs Department: to transfer from the Government to the Authority the assets used by the said Departments and the liabilities to which they were subject; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 30.5.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

The Minister in the Office of the President (the Hon. George Fung-On) 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.

**MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -**

Flooding in Various Regions of Guyana

In accordance with the permission granted earlier, Dr. Kenneth King moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the question of the flood situation in the various Regions of Guyana.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Cyril Belgrave

Mr. Arthur Alexander

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Fazil Ali

The Senior Minister of Health,

Thereafter, Dr. Kenneth King replied.

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) concluded the debate.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING OF REVENUE AUTHORITY BILL 1996 -
Bill No. 10/1996 published 11.5.96**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Revenue Authority Bill 1996.

The Minister in the Office of the President (The Hon. George Fung-On) continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Arthur Alexander.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Substitution of the words "appointed date" for the words "Commencement of this Act" in Subsection(2).

Clauses 4 was passed as amended.

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Clauses 6

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Substitution of the words "terms and conditions in relation to their emoluments" for the words "terms and conditions".

Clauses 6 was passed as amended.

Clause 7

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Substitution of the words "appointed date" for the words "Commencement of this Act" in Subsections (1), (2) and (3).

Clause 7 was passed as amended.

Clause 8

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Deletion of the first proviso and deletion of the word "further" in the second proviso.

Clause 8 was passed as amended.

Clauses 9 and 10 were passed as printed.

Clause 11

The following amendments by the Senior Minister of Finance were put and carried:-

Substitution of the following for paragraph (c) of Subsection (1):-

"(c) the Governor of the Bank of Guyana or, in his absence, such other representative from the Bank of Guyana as may be nominated by the Minister;"

Substitution of the following for paragraph (d) of Subsection (1):-

"(d) the Director of the Office of Budget, Ministry of Finance, or in his absence, such other representative from the Ministry of Finance as may be nominated by the Minister;"

Clause 11 was passed as amended.

Clauses 12 to 17 were passed as printed.

Clause 18

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Deletion of the words "or vice versa" and the words "from the Authority or the Government as the case may be, with, or in connection with, which he was last employed" in Subsection (2).

Clause 18 was passed as amended.

Clauses 19 to 21 were passed as printed.

Clause 22

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Substitution of the following for subsection (5):-

"(5) The Governing Board shall determine such officers of the Departments as shall be entitled to attend and participate in deliberations of any meeting of the Governing Board without the right to vote."

Clause 22 was passed as amended.

Clauses 23 to 30 were passed as printed.

Clause 31

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Finance was put and carried:-

Substitution of the words "appointed date" for the words "commencement of this Act" and substitution of the word "date" for the word "commencement".

Clause 31 was passed as amended.

Clause 32 was passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Revenue Authority Bill 1996 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2- LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 12/1996 published
30.5.96

The Senior Minister of Local Government moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Local Government Act.

(Read a first time on 30.5.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Robert Corbin

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Local Government 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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.30 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

26th July, 1996