

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 84TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

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 (44)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

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 of Local Government

*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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government (Absent)

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 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 Information

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications (Absent - on leave)

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

*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. (Absent)
 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., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 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)
 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. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, 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 (Absent)
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
 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. (Absent)
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Speaker informed Members that Mr. Satyadeow Sawh had been appointed a Minister with effect from 15th October, 1996, and had been designated Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Speaker stated that Mr. Sawh was not an elected Member of the National Assembly but, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, he had, in accordance with article 105 of the Constitution, become a Member of the Assembly.

Mr. Sawh who was present made and subscribed the oath of office, as required by article 167 of the Constitution.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated the Hon. Satyadeow Sawh on his appointment as a Minister, welcomed him to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leave**

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

The Hon. Ramnauth Bisnauth,

The Hon. Michael Shree Chan,

The Hon. Anthony Xavier,

Mr. Desmond Hoyte,

and

Dr. Kenneth King.

(ii) **Welcome to MPs from Africa**

The Speaker stated that the two persons who were in Guyana to make formal presentations to the Elections Commission and others interested in electoral and Constitutional issues had taken advantage of that sitting and were present thereat.

They were the Honourable Louis Chimango from Malawi and Senator Mohamed Surty from South Africa.

He informed the Assembly that they were both Members of Parliament.

Mr. Chimango was a Member of the Malawi Congress Party and served on the Parliamentary Legal Affairs and Constitution Committees.

Mr. Surty was a Member of the African National Congress and served on the Justice and Forestry Committees.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker welcomed Mr. Chimango and Mr. Surty and extended best wishes.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs:

✓ (i) Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

✓ (ii) Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

✓ (iii) Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

✓ (iv) Annual Report of the Guyana Fire Service for the year 1995.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development:

Education (Extension of Application of Section 34B of the Act) (Berbice Educational Institute) Order 1996 (No. 36 of 1996), made under Section 34B(10) of the Education Act, Chapter 39:01, on 18th October, 1996, and published in the Gazette on 5th December, 1996.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

✓ (i) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1995.

(Circulated)

The Minister made a short statement on the Report.

✓ (ii) Financial Paper No. 2/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$614,834,027, for period ended 15th November, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

The Minister informed the Assembly that the amount of "\$250,000" under the Column "Supplementary Provision Now Sought" against Head 53 - Ministry of Local Government, Subhead 314 - Other, was incorrect, and should have been "2,250,000".

The total amount of "\$614,834,027" on the Schedule was consequently changed to "\$616,834,027".

- (iii) Financial Paper No. 3/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,365,942,990, for period ending 31st December, 1996.

(Circulated)

The Minister named Thursday, 19th December, 1996, as the day for the consideration of Financial Papers Nos. 2 and 3 of 1996.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (PROVISION FOR CONVERSION INTO PUBLIC COMPANIES) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 18/1996

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 make provision for converting financial institutions into public companies and for matters connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - SECOND READING, COMMITTEE AND THIRD READING

ITEM 1 - DENTAL REGISTRATION BILL 1996 - Bill No. 14/1996 published 26.10.96

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration of dental practitioners, dentist extenders and dental technicians and for purposes connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 28.10.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Health replied.
The motion was put and carried.
The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 37 and the two Schedules were passed with the following corrections:

- (i) "Part V" was substituted for "Part III" in Clause 2(c).
- (ii) The words "Two members" were substituted for the words "The members" in Clause 2(1) of the first schedule.
- (iii) The word "but" was inserted between the words "terms," and "such" in Clause 2(3) of the first schedule.

Assembly resumed.

Recommittal of Bill

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Health, the Bill was re-committed to consider Clause 36.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Health, Clause 36 was deleted and Clause 37 was renumbered as Clause 36.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Health, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2 - RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 16/1996 published 23.11.96

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Rice Farmers (Security of
Tenure) Act.

(Read a first time on 28.10.96)

Mr. Ivor Allen 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 4.32 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING OF RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996

Mr. Ivor Allen continued and concluded his speech.

Mr. Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Senior Minister of Agriculture replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 23 and the Schedules were passed with the following amendments:

(i) The following was substituted for paragraph (i) of Clause 2(b):-
"(i) by the deletion of the definitions of "agricultural superintendent" and "estate charges";"

(ii) The word "quantity" was substituted for the word "value" in the First Schedule.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.51 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, 19th December, 1996.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

5th December, 1996