

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 95TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1997) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M
ON THURSDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1997
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. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and First Vice-President (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip) (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., 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., Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Minister of Information

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. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications

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

*Non-elected Member

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 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.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Thakoor Silas, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No.2 - Pomeroun/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/Si runi) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - E rbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P. a/k Balkarran (Region No 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip
 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. Ivor Allen, M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, J.P., M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 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.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, 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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. Thakoor Silas

The Speaker stated that on the assumption of the Office of President by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Samuel Hinds, a seat in the National Assembly became vacant.

He said that following his call on the deputy representative of the list of candidates in which Mr. Hinds' name was included, that is the People's Progressive Party/Civic List, he was informed that the name of Mr. Thakoor Silas had been extracted from the list and that Mr. Silas was, on 15th April, 1997, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

Before Mr. Silas could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he would have, as required by article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Mr. Silas was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations and Welcome to New Member

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations to Mr. Thakoor Silas on his election as a Member of the National Assembly.

He welcomed Mr. Silas to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

The Prime Minister up to the end of April,

The Minister of Home Affairs,

The Minister of Education and
Cultural Development,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and

The Minister of Finance
for that day's sitting,

The Minority Leader up to 27th April,

Mr. Winston Murray up to the end of June, and

Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh for that day's sitting.

(iii) Marriage of Mr. Edward Da'Silva, M.P.

The Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Edward Da'Silva on his recent marriage.

(iv) Death of Mother of Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., M.P.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, extended deep sympathy to Mr. Komal Chand, on the death of his mother.

(v) Parliamentary Library

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the Parliament Office and the National Democratic Institute had prepared a small note on the establishment of the Parliamentary Library and that copies of the note had been circulated to Members of the Assembly.

He stated that he was advised that further updates and information would be issued from time to time.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Speaker:

- (i) Minutes of the Proceedings of the 8th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Wednesday, 19th February, 1997.

(Circulated)

) Report of the Ombudsman for the period 1st October, 1994 to 31st December, 1995.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House):

Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1995.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Prison Service for the year 1995.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Annual Reports (2) of the Police Complaints Authority for the years 1994 and 1995.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

State Paper on Convention No. 175 and Recommendation No. 182,
which was adopted by the International Labour Conference at
its 81st Session held in June, 1994.

(Circulated)

(5)

By the Minister of Health:

(i) Annual Reports (2) of the Ministry of Health for the
years 1993 and 1994.

(Circulated)

(ii) Guyana Agency for Health Sciences, Education,
Environment and Food Policy (Dissolution and
Transfer of Assets) Order 1997 (No. 4 of 1997).

(Circulated)

(6) By the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the
the Minister of Finance:

(i) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and
Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 1997
(No. 5 of 1997).

(Circulated)

(ii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders)
Order 1997 (No. 6 of 1997).

(Circulated)

(7) By the Minister in the Office of the President:

Annual Report of the Office of the President
for the year 1996.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) TIMEHRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 2/1997
published 11.4.97

The Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to effect changes
in the names of Timehri International
Airport and Timehri Aerodrome.

- (2) LAND REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 Bill No. 3/1997
published 11.4.97

The Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Land Registry Act.

- (3) LAW REVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 5/1997
published 11.4.97

The Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Law Revision Act.

- (4) COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 4/1997 published 11.4.97

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Companies Act 1991.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MS CECILENE BAIRD, C.C.H.

Dr. Faith Harding moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Ms Cecilene Baird, C.C.H., and pay tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which she rendered to Guyana and to the Parliament in her capacity as a Member of Parliament and as Minister of Education;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to her bereaved family and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 107 (M87 Opp 15) published 1.4.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Vice-President and Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, Members stood and observed silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the late former Minister.

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 2 - GUYANA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 -
Bill No. 17/1996 published 23.11.96

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Guyana National Bureau of Standards
Act 1984.

(Read a first time on 28.10.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed with the year "1997" substituted for the year "1996" in the Short Title.

MOTION

ITEM 3 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE - Power to receive oral evidence in public

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion which was put and carried.

WHEREAS on 1st December, 1994, the National Assembly passed a Resolution appointing a Special Select Committee of the Assembly to review the present Constitution of Guyana and make proposals for its reform and empowering the Committee, in the exercise of its functions, to invite and receive memoranda from the public - individuals and organisations - and to receive evidence and such expert advice as it considers appropriate;

AND WHEREAS the Committee, in the exercise of its functions, may wish to receive oral evidence in public:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly empower the Committee to receive oral evidence in public, as it wishes, and at such places and times as the Committee considers appropriate.

(Notice Paper No. 109 (M89 Govt 72) published 16.4.97)

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 p.m., on a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

17th April, 1997.