

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 101ST 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, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 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
(Absent-on leave)

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (44)

The Hon. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and First Vice-President

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)

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
(Absent- on leave)

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social
Security (Absent)

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

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)

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

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

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 (Absent-on
leave)

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

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

*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. (Absent)
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., 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. (Absent)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent- on leave)
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P. (Absent- on leave)
 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 - Pomeroon/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)
 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. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent)
 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 (Absent- on leave)
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 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. (Absent- on leave)
 Mrs. Cyralda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No.10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
 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. (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)(Absent)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly (Absent-on leave)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Acting Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Monica I. Jordan, Accountant, Parliament Office

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO PRESIDE

In accordance with Standing Order No. 4(l), Mr. Komal Chand, nominated by the Second Vice - President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) and seconded by Mr. Dunstan Barrow, was elected to preside in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The sitting of the National Assembly was, thereafter, convened with Mr. Komal Chand in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

- (i) Guyana's Attendance at 43rd Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Mauritius

The Presiding Member informed the Assembly that a Parliamentary Delegation from Guyana, comprised of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Winslow Zephyr and the Clerk of the National Assembly, was in Mauritius attending the 43rd Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

- (ii) Duties of the Clerk

The Presiding Member announced that in the absence of the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk was performing the duties of the Clerk and that he was being assisted by Ms Monica Jordan, Accountant in Parliament Office.

- (iii) Leave

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

Hon. Bernard DeSantos

Hon. Vibert DeSouza

Mr. Lawrence Rodney

Mr. Desmond Hoyte

Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, and

Mr. Phillip Bynoe.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46 (2) AND (3)

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

5.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46 (2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 18th September, 1997, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 1997 - Bill No. 26/1997.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 26/1997

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read a first time:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Representation of the People Act, the National Registration Act and the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 1996.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 24/1997 published 31.7.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of a local democratic organ.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government replied.

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6.

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.

ITEM 2 - ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 26/1997 published 12.9.97

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Representation of the People Act, the National Registration Act and the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 1996.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture 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 5 were passed as printed.

Clause 6

The following amendment by Mr. Winston Murray was put and carried:

Insertion of the words “or indelibly stamped with any other clear distinguishing mark” after the word “perforated” in line 2 of subsection (2).

Clause 6 was passed as amended.

Clauses 7 to 11 including the Schedule were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDING MEMBER

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) congratulated Mr. Komal Chand on his election as Presiding Member and on the efficient manner in which he conducted the business of the Assembly.

THANKS BY PRESIDING MEMBER

The Presiding Member thanked Members for the confidence they had shown in electing him to preside at that Sitting and for the cooperation they had given him during the proceedings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.49 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.

Komal Chand
Komal Chand
Presiding Member

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

18th September, 1997