

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 103RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1997) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 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

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 (Absent)

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Education and Cultural Development (Absent)

*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 (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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)

*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 (Absent)

***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. (Absent)
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 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.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, 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)(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)

*Mr. Edward A. DaSilva, M.P.

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.
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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. (Absent - on leave)
 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) (Absent)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., M.P.

*Sitting with the Minority with effect from 13th October, 1997.

3.

(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 2.02 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Birthday Greetings to Prime Minister

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations and best wishes to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Janet Jagan on the occasion of her birthday that day.

(ii) Leave

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

Hon. Dr. Henry Jeffrey

Hon. Clement Rohee

Mr. Desmond Hoyte

Mr. David Subnauth

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

☞ (I) The following Financial Papers:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 3/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current) totalling \$25,000,000, for the period ended 31st December, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

- ☞ (ii) Financial Paper No. 4/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$482,253,006, for the period ended 10th October, 1997 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

- ☞ (iii) Financial Paper No. 5/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$3,718,395,730 for the period ended 31st December, 1997.

(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister of Finance named Friday, 24th October, 1997, as the day for the consideration of the three Financial Papers.

(2) The following Regulations made under the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Chapter 36:01, on 30th July, 1997, and published in the Gazette on 18th October, 1997:-

- (i) National Insurance and Social Security (Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 10 of 1997)
- (ii) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 11 of 1997)
- (iii) National Insurance and Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 12 of 1997)
- (iv) National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 13 of 1997)
- (v) National Insurance and Social Security (Industrial Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 14 of 1997)
- (vi) National Insurance and Social Security (Industrial Benefit Medical Care) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 15 of 1997)
- (vii) National Insurance and Social Security (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 16 of 1997)
- (viii) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions – Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 17 of 1997)
- (ix) National Insurance and Social Security (Mariners and Share Fishermen) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
(No. 18 of 1997)

(Circulated)

(3) The following Loan Agreements:-

- (i) Private Sector Development Adjustment Credit with International Development Association (Credit No. 2746-2-GUA) Dated June 21, 1996
- (ii) Secondary School Reform Project with International Development Association (Credit No. 2879-GUA) Dated June 21, 1996
- (iii) Inter-American Development Bank Loan Contract No. 956/SF-GY for Financial Sector Programme Dated March 24, 1996
- (iv) Inter-American Development Bank Loan Contract No. 965/SF-GY for Agricultural Sector Programme Dated August 9, 1996
- (v) Inter-American Development Bank Technical Cooperation Contract No. 966/SF-GY for Agricultural Sector Programme Dated August 9, 1996
- (vi) Caribbean Development Bank Loan No. 12/SFR-GU (Assumption of Liat's Debts to Caribbean Development Bank Dated April 16, 1996
- (vii) Commodity Credit Corporation – PL 480 FY (97)
- (viii) Guyana/Sweden 1996 Debt Cancellation Agreement Signed on July 8, 1996
- (ix) Guyana/Germany 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on November 12, 1996
- (x) Guyana/Trinidad 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on March 26, 1997
- (xi) Guyana/United States 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on March 27, 1997
- (xii) Guyana/France 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on April 4, 1997
- (xiii) Guyana/Netherlands 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on April 7, 1997
- (xiv) Guyana/Denmark 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on April 17, 1997
- (xv) Guyana/UIC (ECGG) 1996 Bilateral Rescheduling Agreement Signed on April 15, 1997
- (xvi) Export Development Corporation 1996 Rescheduling Agreement No. 890-GUY-7247 Dated May 27, 1997
- (xvii) International Fund for Agricultural Development. Loan No. 436-GY for Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project Dated April 18, 1997

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BILL 1997 - Bill No. 32/1997
published 14.10.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision
for the establishment, functions and
procedure of the Public Utilities Commission
and for matters connected therewith.

- (2) ELECTRICITY SECTOR REFORM BILL 1997 - Bill No. 33/1997
published 14.10.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for a regular,
efficient, coordinated and economical supply
of electricity and for matters incidental thereto
or connected therewith.

- (3) GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY BILL 1997 - Bill No. 34/1997
published 14.10.97

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 make provision for the
establishment of the Guyana Energy Agency
and for specifying its functions and for matters
connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL
1997 - Bill No. 31/1997 published 3.10.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
National Insurance and Social Security Act.

(Read a first time on 13.10.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the 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 4 were passed as printed.

Clause 5

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

Substitution of the words “fifteen thousand” for the words “five thousand” in the third line.

Clause 5 was passed as amended.

Clause 6

The following amendments by Mr. Murray were put and carried:

Substitution of the words “fifteen thousand dollars” for the words
“five thousand dollars” in paragraph (b).

Substitution of the words “six thousand dollars” for the words
“five thousand dollars”.

Clause 6 was passed as amended.

Clauses 7 and 8 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

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

MOTION

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER
1997 (No. 35)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 9 of
the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties
(Amendment) Order 1997 (No. 35 of 1997), which was made on
8th October, 1997 under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01,
and published in the Gazette on 11th October, 1997.

(Notice Paper No. 122 (M102 Govt 85) published 13.10.97)

10.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.17 p.m., on a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 24th October, 1997.



D. C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

20th October, 1997.