

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1998**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)**

**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 (46)**

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

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and  
Parliamentary Affairs

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

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

\*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs  
(Absent - on leave)

\*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Education

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

\*The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

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

\*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

\*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Health and Labour

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

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government (Absent - on leave)

\*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Livestock and Fisheries (Absent)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

\*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

\*The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

\*Non-elected Minister

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P.

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.

Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Alston A. Kisooson, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, M.P.

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramratan, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Geoffrey A. Fraser, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Ramsundar Sankat, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Eustace S. Rodrigues, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

**Members of the Minority (29)****(i) People's National Congress (25)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent)

Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)

Ms Deborah Backer, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Milton L. Ganpatsingh, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Dalgeish Joseph, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Kadim Khan, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Sherwood Lowe, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

Mr. Kelly Andries, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)

Ms Sandra Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

**(ii) The United Force (2)**

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mr. Matthew R. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) **Alliance for Guyana (2)**

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Albertino Peters, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

**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**

The oath of office was made and subscribed by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(i) **Appointment of Prime Minister**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations and best wishes to the Hon. Samuel Archibald Anthony Hinds, on his appointment as Prime Minister, with effect from 27th February, 1998.

(ii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to -

the Hon. Charles R. Ramson, and

the Hon. Harripersaud Nokta.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-**

By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1997 (No. 40 of 1997), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 2nd December, 1997, and published in the Gazette on 6th December, 1997.

(Circulated)

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-**

**Stone throwing at President's Car**

The Prime Minister made a statement concerning the stone-throwing incident which had taken place outside of the Public Buildings Compound, following the Ceremonial Opening of the Session of the Seventh Parliament by Her Excellency the President, Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., on Thursday, 26th February, 1998.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**ELECTORAL AUDIT (CARICOM AGREEMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 1/1998**  
**published 2.3.98**

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 provide for the conduct of the Independent Electoral Audit provided for in the Caricom Agreement dated 17th January, 1998.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT OF GUYANA,  
DR. CHEDDI JAGAN**

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly pays tribute to our late President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, on the occasion of his first death anniversary and recalls the long and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana, its people and to the Parliament for fifty years.

(Notice Paper No. 1 (M1 Govt 1) published 2.3.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir  
Hon. Clement Rohee  
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine  
Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury  
Mr. Navindranauth Chandarpal.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 2 - APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

The Minister of Education moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency the President, Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., for her Address to the National Assembly which was made on the occasion of the Ceremonial Opening of the First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Guyana on Thursday, 26th February, 1998, and approves of the policy adumbrated therein.

(Notice Paper No. 2 (M2 Govt 2) published 2.3.98)

7.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.05 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.32 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Dr. Leslie Ramsammy

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Dr. Hughley Hanoman

Hon. Gail Teixeira

Hon. Clinton Collymore.

The motion was then put and carried.

### **ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1997 (No. 40 of 1997)**

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1997 (No. 40 of 1997), which was made on 2nd December, 1997, and published in the Gazette on 6th December, 1997.

(Notice Paper No. 3 (M3 Govt 3) published 2.3.98)

8.

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



**D. C. JAGAN**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
GEORGETOWN.**

**5TH MARCH, 1998.**