

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 7TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

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

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 (Absent - on leave)

*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

*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 (Absent - on leave)

*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. (Absent)

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 - on leave)

Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

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 - Pomerook/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.S., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

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

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. Dalgleish 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)

4.

(iii) Alliance for Guyana (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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 2.07 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh and Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine up to the 10th April, 1998.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - 1998 BUDGET - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1998

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1998.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:-

01-01 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- 1 Head Office Administration
 - 2 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
 - 3 Public Service Management
- Div. 501 Office of the President

01-02 GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

- 1 Defence Headquarters

01-03 GUYANA NATIONAL SERVICE

- 1 Administration
- 2 Training

02-01 OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

- 1 Prime Minister's Secretariat

04-02 OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- 1 Ombudsman
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25005)

04-03 PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

- 1 Public and Police Service Commission
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25002)

04-04 TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

- 1 Teaching Service Commission
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25008)

04-05 PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

- 1 Public Service Appellate Tribunal

04-06 ELECTIONS COMMISSION

- 1 Elections Commission

14-01 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Public Works
 - 3 Communication and Transport
- Div. 519 Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences
Div. 520 Ministry of Public Works and Communications
Div. 521 Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction, Rehabilitation
and Studies

07-01 MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- 1 Secretariat Services
 - 2 Guyana Police Force
 - 3 Guyana Prison Service
 - 4 Police Complaints Authority
 - 5 Guyana Fire Service
 - 6 National Registration Centre
 - 7 General Register Office
- Div. 507 Ministry of Home Affairs

03-01 PARLIAMENT OFFICE

- 1 National Assembly
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25003)

08-01 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Crops and Livestock Support Services
- 3 Fisheries
- 4 Hydrometeorological Services
- 5 Lands and Surveys
- Div. 508 Ministry of Agriculture
- Div. 510 Ministry of Agriculture – MMA III
- Div. 512 Ministry of Agriculture – Artisanal Fisheries

04-01 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

- 1 Office of the Auditor General
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies – Auditor General

12-01 MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Accountant General's Department
- 3 Customs and Excise
- 4 Inland Revenue Department
- Div. 526 Ministry of Finance

16-01 PUBLIC DEBT

- 1 Public Debt

04-05 PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

- 1 Public Prosecutions
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25007)

05-01 MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

- 1 Main Office
- 2 Ministry Administration
- 3 Attorney General's Chambers
- 4 Office of the State Solicitor
- 5 Deeds Registry
- Div. 514 Ministry of Legal Affairs

05-02 SUPREME COURT

- 1 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 2 Magistrates' Department

10-01 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 National Education Policy
Implementation and Supervision
 - 3 Ministry Administration
 - 4 Training and Development
 - 5 Education Delivery
- Div. 542 Ministry of Education – Primary Education Improvement Prog.
Div. 543 Ministry of Education

04-07 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- 1 Public Utilities Commission
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25006)

13-01 MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 Ministry Administration
 - 3 Trade, Tourism Industrial Development and Consumer Affairs
- Div. 528 Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry

11-01 MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL

- 1 Ministry Administration SECURITY
 - 2 Social Services
- Div. 503 Ministry of Human Services and Social Security – SIMAP
Div. 504 Ministry of Human Services and Social Security

09-01 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Disease Control
 - 3 Primary Health Care Services
 - 4 Regional and Clinical services
 - 5 Health Sciences Education
 - 6 Standards and Technical Services
 - 7 Rehabilitation Services
 - 8 Public Hospital Georgetown
 - 9 Labour Administration
- Div. 515 Ministry of Health and Labour

01-04 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

- 1 Information Services
- Div. 513 Ministry of Information

15-01 MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 Ministry Administration
 - 3 Regional Development
- Div. 522 Ministry of Local Government

15-02 REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 531 Region 1: Barima/Waini

15-03 REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 532 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam

15-04 REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 533 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara

15-05 REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 534 Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica

15-06 REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 535 Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice

15-07 REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 536 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.44 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1998.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions were approved as presented:-

15-08 REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 537 Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni

15-09 REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Public Works
 - 3 Education Delivery
 - 4 Health Services
- Div. 538 Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni

15-10 REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 539 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

15-11 REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE

- 1 Regional Administration and Finance
 - 2 Agriculture
 - 3 Public Works
 - 4 Education Delivery
 - 5 Health Services
- Div. 540 Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice

10-02 MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Culture
 - 3 Youth
 - 4 Sports
- Div. 541 Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

11-02 MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

- 1 Housing and Water
- Div. 523 Ministry of Housing and Water
Div. 524 Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement
Div. 525 Ministry of Housing and Water - Georgetown Remedial and
Project

Assembly Resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.56 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 7th April, 1998.


D. C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
6th April, 1998.**