

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION  
(1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1998

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

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SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PUBLIC BUSINESS

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Assembly to nominate three Members from the People's National Congress to the Committee of Selection.

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F.A. NARAIN

Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

29<sup>th</sup> July, 1998

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 13 TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH JULY, 1998**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

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

**The Deputy Speaker, Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P., presided.**

**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 (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

The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)

\*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

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 (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of Information (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

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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 - on leave)

Mr. Alston A. Kisooson, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C., 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.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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)  
(Absent - on leave)

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.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

Mr. Andy G. Goveia, M.P.

Miss Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P.

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P.

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

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**(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. (Absent - on leave)

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

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

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

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.12 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**OATHS**

**Resignation of Mr. Milton L.R. Ganpatsingh**

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that the Speaker had received a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1998, from Mr. Milton L.R. Ganpatsingh resigning his seat as a Member of the National Assembly with immediate effect.

With Mr. Ganpatsingh's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly became vacant.

The vacancy was, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name was to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Ganpatsingh's name was extracted.

As Mr. Ganpatsingh's name was extracted from the People's National Congress list of candidates, the Speaker, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, had called upon the Representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who was willing to become a Member of the National Assembly, to fill the vacancy therein.

### **Election of Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth**

The Speaker was informed that the name of Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth had been extracted from the list and that Mr. Ramnauth was, on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1998, declared by the Elections Commission to have become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

### **Making and Subscribing of Oath**

The following Members made and subscribed the oath:

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P.

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

### **(i) Congratulations and Welcome to New Members**

The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the other Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated the three Members from the People's National Congress on their election as Members of the National Assembly. He also welcomed those Members to the Assembly and extended best wishes to them.

**(ii) Leave**

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:-

The Hon. Dr. Henry Jeffrey for that sitting,  
 The Hon. Moses Nagamootoo up to 3<sup>rd</sup> August,  
 Dr. Cheddi Jagan for that sitting,  
 Mr. Alston Kisson up to 31<sup>st</sup> August,  
 Ms Deborah Backer up to 17<sup>th</sup> August, and  
 Mr. Raphael Trotman up to 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**(iii) Appointment of PNC Chief Whip**

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that the Leader of the People's National Congress had appointed Mr. Dunstan Barrow to be the Chief Whip for the People's National Congress, with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1998. He extended congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Barrow.

**(iv) Congratulations to Minister on Marriage**

The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated the Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, Minister of Finance, on his marriage on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1998, and extended best wishes to the Minister and his wife.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON  
 DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**Matters Relating to the Georgetown Hospital**

A request by Dr. Dalglish Joseph to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss certain problems affecting the new operating theatre at the Georgetown Hospital was disallowed as the matter did not qualify.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 1 - THE ST. LUCIA STATEMENT**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly notes the St. Lucia Statement with the Agreement which was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1998. (Notice Paper No. 8 (M8 Govt8) published 20.7.98)

(While the Minister of Foreign Affairs was speaking, the Members from the People's National Congress withdrew from the Chamber and returned after the Minister had concluded his speech).

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Aubrey Norton

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.20 p.m., the sitting was resumed.



**ITEM 2 - RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL 11 WHICH AMENDS THE  
TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol 11 amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1973 was signed by ten Heads of Government at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica during the period 30 June - 4 July, 1997;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol 11 was signed by H.E. Samuel Hinds, the Former President of Guyana on behalf of the Government of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS this amended Protocol provides for the Rights of Establishment, Provision of Services and Movement of Capital within the Community within the context of the Single Market and Economy;

AND WHEREAS Protocol 11 is the first major amendment to the Treaty of Chaguaramas to provide for the introduction of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in order to achieve sustained economic development, international competitiveness, co-ordinated economic and foreign policies, functional co-operation and enhanced trade and economic relations with other countries;

AND WHEREAS Guyana remains committed to the set goals and objectives of the Caribbean Community in this new era of globalisation;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to be Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Protocol 11 and for Guyana to formally ratify the said Protocol 11 by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No.9 (M9 Govt 9) published 20.7.98)

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl spoke to the motion.

Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:-

Deletion of the words from “and” to “Ratification”  
after the words “Protocol 11” in the Resolve Clause  
and substitution of the following therefor:-

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees that  
before Guyana formally ratifies the said Protocol 11 by  
the deposit of the appropriate instrument of ratification,  
the treaty establishing the Council of Legal Education be  
amended to include the automatic entry of the University  
of Guyana graduates to the law schools of the Council of  
Legal Education.”

Mr. Matthew Charlie seconded the amendment.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The amendment by Mr. Nadir was put and negatived.

The motion by the Minister of Foreign Affairs was then put and carried.

**ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT)**  
**ORDER 1998 (No. 14 of 1998)**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of 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 1998  
(No. 14 of 1998), which was made on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1998, and  
published in the Gazette on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1998.  
(Notice Paper No. 10 (M10 Govt 10) published 20.7.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow  
 Mr. Manzoor Nadir  
 Dr. Hughley Hanoman  
 The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry  
 Mr. Winston Murray.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

**FOR**

Mr. Sankat  
 Mr. Fraser  
 Mr. Ramratan  
 Mr. Mohan  
 Mr. DeSouza  
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury  
 Mr. Rodney  
 Dr. Ramsammy  
 Mr. Ramkarran  
 Mr. Ramjattan  
 Dr. Lall  
 Dr. Hanoman  
 Mrs. Edwards  
 Mr. DeSantos  
 Mr. Chandarpal  
 Mr. Chand  
 Mr. Husman Alli  
 Mr. Fazil Ali  
 Mr. Ramotar  
 Mr. Belgrave  
 Mr. Mohamed  
 Miss Teixeira  
 Mr. Nokta  
 Mr. Chan  
 Mr. Rohee  
 Mr. Persaud

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**AGAINST**

Mr. Charlie  
 Mr. Nadir  
 Mr. Ramnauth  
 Mr. Andries  
 Ms Adams  
 Mr. Bynoe  
 Mr. Subhan  
 Mr. Hicks  
 Mr. Lowe  
 Mr. Hamilton  
 Ms Lawrence  
 Dr. Joseph  
 Mr. Goveia  
 Mrs. DeJesus  
 Mr. Norton  
 Miss Persico  
 Mr. Khan  
 Mr. Allen  
 Dr. Harding  
 Mr. Carberry  
 Mrs. Riehl  
 Mr. Barrow  
 Mr. Murray  
 Mr. Hoyte

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**BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading**

**ITEM 4 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998**

**Bill No. 8/1998**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.  
(Read a first time on 11.6.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

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 5 - NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION**

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly nominated the following three Members from the People's National Congress to the Committee of Selection :

Mr. Dunstan Barrow

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Raphael Trotman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.43 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



**W. M. ZEPHYR**

**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.**

**29<sup>th</sup> July, 1998.**