

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER**  
**FOR THE 18<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 THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1998**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS FOR SITTING**

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

**(3) By the Minister of Finance:**

Reports (5) of the Directors of the Dependents' Pension Fund  
for the years 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992.

(Circulated)

**(4) By the Minister of Health and Labour:**

State Paper on Conventions Nos. 178, 179 and 180 and  
Recommendations Nos. 185, 186 and 187 and  
Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping  
(Minimum Standards) Convention 1976, adopted  
at the 84<sup>th</sup> (Maritime) Session of the International  
Conference held in October 1996.

(Circulated)

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**F.A. NARAIN**  
**Clerk of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**  
**Public Buildings,**  
**Georgetown.**  
**17<sup>th</sup> December, 1998**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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

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 - on leave)

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 (Absent)

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

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

\*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 (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 (Absent - on leave)

\*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.

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.

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.

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.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)

(There is one vacancy)

**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 (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.

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

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

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

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

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

Mr. Kelley Andres, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

4.

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

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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) (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 2.03 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**(i) Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

the Hon. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth for that day's sitting,

the Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo up to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1999, and

Mr. Eustace Rodrigues,

Mr. Dunstan Barrow,

Mr. Aubrey Norton,

Miss Volda Lawrence,

Mr. Sherwood Lowe and

Mr. Manzoor Nadir for that day's sitting.

**(ii) Thanks to Guyana Defence Force Military and Steel Band**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, expressed sincere thanks to the Members of the Guyana Defence Force Military and Steel Band for the Christmas music renditions which they gave in the Public Buildings Compound before the sitting commenced.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-****(1) By the Speaker:**

Report of the Ombudsman for the year 1997.

(Circulated)

**(2) By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister:**

Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1998  
(No. 9 of 1998), made under section 103 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 and published in the Gazette on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1998.

(Circulated)

**(3) By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:**

- ✓ Reports (5) of the Directors of the Dependents' Pension Fund for the years 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992.

(Circulated)

**(4) By the Minister of Health and Labour:**

- ✓ State Paper on Conventions Nos. 178, 179 and 180 and Recommendations Nos. 185, 186 and 187 and Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention 1976, adopted at the 84<sup>th</sup> (Maritime) Session of the International Conference held in October 1996.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-**

**No. 13 - SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (SSEE)**

Dr. Faith Harding asked the Minister of Education the following question:

\*Would the Minister of Education inform this Assembly what modifications are being made to the SSEE so that it could better serve the purposes of secondary education and remedy the poor performance of first-formers in transition from primary to secondary education?

(Notice Paper No. 27(Q13 Opp 13) published 30.11.98)

The Minister of Health and Labour gave a reply on behalf of the Minister of Education.

**No. 14 - PROGRAMMES AND PLANS FOR CHILDREN 14 AND 15 YEARS**

Dr. Faith Harding asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

\*Would the Minister of Education say what programmes are being put in place to stop the increasing flow of over 60 percent of children aged 14 - 15 years from dropping out of school?

\*Would the Minister further state the plans for children 15 years of age who complete the Community High School programme but have no entry requirements for a secondary education?

(Notice Paper No. 28(Q14 Opp14) published 30.11.98)

The Minister of Health and Labour gave a reply on behalf of the Minister of Education.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-**

**Crime Situation in Guyana**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs made a statement on the crime situation in Guyana.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MR. MARTIN WYLDE CARTER, O.R.**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Martin Wylde Carter, O.R., and pay tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his bereaved family and relatives.  
(Notice Paper No. 31(M17 Govt 13 published 10.12.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing for one minute as a mark of respect.

**BILLS - Second Reading**

**2. SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 -  
Bill No. 13/1998 published 7.11.98**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act.  
(Read a first time on 29.10.98)

8.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Mrs Clarissa Riehl.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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 and 2 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed with the following amendment:

For the words "twenty-five thousand dollars" where those words occur for the second time, substitution of the words "fifty thousand dollars" and for the words "fifty thousand dollars" substitution of the words "one hundred and fifty thousand dollars" in section 72(1).

### **Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

### **ITEM 3 - PREVENTION OF CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 14/1998** **published 7.11.98**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Prevention of Crimes Act.  
(Read a first time on 29.10.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Raphael Trotman.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal 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 4 - CATTLE STEALING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 -**  
**Bill No. 15/1998 published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Cattle Stealing Prevention Act

was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages  
and passed as printed.

**ITEM 5 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 -**  
**Bill No. 16/1998 published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act

was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and  
passed as printed.

**ITEM 6 - GUYANA CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 17/1998**  
**published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Guyana Citizenship Act  
was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages  
and passed as printed.

**ITEM 7 - IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 18/1998 published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Immigration Act  
was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and  
passed as printed.

**ITEM 8 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 -**  
**Bill No. 19/1998 published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act  
was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages  
and passed as printed.

**ITEM 9 - MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT)**  
**BILL 1998 - Bill No. 20/1998 published 7.11.98**

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs,

The BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor  
Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act  
was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and  
passed as printed.

**DEFERMENT OF BILLS**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs stated that it was agreed that the following Bills would be considered at the next Sitting of the Assembly which would be held on Monday, 28th December, 1998:-

- (i) **INCOME TAX (IN AID OF INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 21/1998**
  
- (ii) **BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1998 - Bill No. 22/1998**
  
- (iii) **INSURANCE BILL 1998 - Bill No. 23/1998**
  
- (iv) **SECURITIES INDUSTRY BILL 1998 - Bill No. 24/1998**
  
- (v) **EXTRA-MURAL WORK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 25/1998**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

Before the adjournment, the Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and assistance given to him during 1998. He extended good wishes for Christmas and for 1999 to Members and their families, to the Staff of the National Assembly and to the Media.

Mr. Lance Carberry, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, and the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs thanked the Speaker and reciprocated the good wishes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3.55 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 28th December, 1998.

**D.C. JAGAN**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**17th December, 1998.**