

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 19TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 1998
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., 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

*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Rammauth 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 (Absent)

*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)

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

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. (Absent)

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Absent)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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)
(Absent - on leave)

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

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. (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.

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

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

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. (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. (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.

(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)

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

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 2.00 p.m.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO PRESIDE

In accordance with Standing Order No. 4(1), Mr. Bernard DeSantos, nominated by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs and seconded by Mr. Manzoor Nadir, was elected to preside in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The sitting of the National Assembly was, thereafter, convened with Mr. Bernard DeSantos in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

The Hon. Dr. Henry Jeffrey,
The Hon. Anthony Xavier,
Mr. Winslow Zephyr,
Mr. Ramsundar Sankat,
Mr. Desmond Hoyte,
Mr. Winston Murray,
Mr. Aubrey Norton, and
Mr. Raphael Trotman.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC. -

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

Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements (10)
of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
for the years 1984 to 1993.

(Circulated)

(ii) **By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:**

Annual Report of the Guyana Sugar Corporation
for the year 1997.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

**ITEM 1 - INCOME TAX (IN AID OF INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 -
Bill No. 21/1998 published 30.11.98**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income
Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act.
(Read a first time on 30.11.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Kadim Khan
Mr. Odinga Lumumba
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Mr. Alston Kissoon
Mr. Lance Carberry.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance 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 2 - BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1998 - Bill No. 22/1998 published 30.11.98

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to revise and amend the
law relating to the Bank of Guyana and to provide
for related and consequential matters.

(Read a first time on 30.11.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Kadim Khan

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.56 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1998 - Bill No. 22/1998 published 30.11.98

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Bank of Guyana Bill 1998.

Mr. Lance Carberry spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

8.

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

ITEM 3 - INSURANCE BILL 1998 - Bill No. 23/1998 published 30.11.98

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal the Insurance Act and to provide for the regulation of insurance in Guyana, the promotion of competition in the insurance industry, the protection of consumers and for purposes related thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 30.11.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. John DeFreitas.

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.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

9.

Clause 2 was passed with the following amendment which was moved by the Minister of Finance:-

Substitution of the words "Part XVI" for the words "section 92".

Clauses 3 to 154 were passed as printed.

Clause 155 was passed with the following amendment which was moved by the Minister of Finance:-

Substitution of "Non effect of certain provisions of Married Women's Property Act" for the marginal note.

Clause 156 was passed as printed.

Schedules 1 to 5 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed .

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Insurance Bill 1998 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - SECURITIES INDUSTRY BILL 1998 - Bill No. 24/1998 published 30.11.98

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration of securities brokers and dealers, certain self-regulatory organisations, and certain issuers of securities; and for the regulation of securities issuances; with the purpose of encouraging capital formation and the growth of efficient securities markets, while protecting purchasers of securities and promoting ethical behaviour in the securities industry.

(Read a first time on 30.11.98)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Lance Carberry

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 9(2) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue sitting beyond 6:30 p.m., to complete consideration of the following Bills:-

Securities Industry Bill 1998

Extra - Mural Work (Amendment) Bill 1998.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY BILL 1998

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Securities Industry Bill 1998.

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

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

FOR

Mr. Randas
 Mr. Fraser
 Mr. Ramratan
 Mr. Mohan
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Mr. Rodney
 Mr. Ranjattan
 Mr. Lumumba
 Dr. Lall
 Mr. Kissoon
 Dr. Hanoman
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. Chandarpal
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Husman Alli
 Mr. Fazil Ali
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Mohamed
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. Chan
 Mr. Jagdeo
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Persaud

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DECLINED TO VOTE

Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Andries
 Mr. Bynoc
 Mr. Hicks
 Mr. Lowe
 Mr. Hamilton
 Dr. Joseph
 Mr. DeFreitas
 Ms Backer
 Mrs. DeJesus
 Miss Persico
 Mr. Khan
 Mr. Carberry

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The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 146 were passed with the following amendments, which were moved by the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, to clauses 25, 34, 44, 56, 106, 131, 132, 145 and 146 :-

Clause 25

Insertion of "No. 21 of 1988" in the margin

Clause 34(2)(b) and 3(c)

Substitution of "sections 33(3)" for "sections 33(3)(a)"

Clause 44(3)

Substitution of "Where" for "Subject to subsection (4) where"

Clause 56(8)

Substitution of "section 57(3)(b)" for "section 57(2)(b)"

Clause 106(1)

Substitution of "section 111" for "section 118"

Clause 131(6)

Substitution of "section 137" for "section 142"

Clause 132(5)

Substitution of "section 35 or 36" for "section 40 or 41"

Clause 145(1)

Insertion of "No. 29 of 1991" in the margin

Clause 145(2)

Insertion of "No. 12 of 1995" in the margin

Clause 146

Insertion of "1995" after "Financial Institutions Act"

Assembly resumed .

On a motion by the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, the Securities Industry Bill 1998 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 - EXTRA-MURAL WORK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998 - Bill No. 25/1998
published 30.11.98

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Extra-Mural Work Act.

(Read a first time on 30.11.98)

Mrs. Deborah Backer spoke to the motion.

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.

(i) **DEATH OF FATHER OF MINISTER OF FINANCE**

(ii) **NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

Before the adjournment was taken, the Presiding Member informed the Members that the father of the Minister of Finance had died a short while ago and requested that the condolences of the Assembly be conveyed to the Minister.

Mr. Lance Carberry, Mr. Manzoor Nadir and the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of their respective Parties, joined in extending sympathy to the Minister of Finance. They also extended New Year Greetings to the Presiding Member, the other Members of the Assembly and the Staff of the Parliament Office.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Bernard C. DeSantos
Presiding Member

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

28th December, 1998.