

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 29TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998 - 1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 1999
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (77)

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 (47)

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

*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 (Absent - on leave)

*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

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

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

*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)

*The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

*Non elected Minister

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

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. (Absent - on leave)

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.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

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.

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

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

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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.

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

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

Dr. Dagleish 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. (Absent)

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

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.

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

(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. (Absent - on leave)

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 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to the following Members:-

The Hon. M. Shree Chan

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 7/1999

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Customs Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

1999 BUDGET

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1999

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1999.

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- OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

02- OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

- 1 Prime Minister's Secretariat

09- PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

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

10- TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

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

11- ELECTIONS COMMISSION

- 1 Elections Commission

53- GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

- 1 Defence Headquarters

54- GUYANA NATIONAL SERVICE

- 1 Administration
- 2 Training

57- OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- 1 Ombudsman

58- PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

- 1 Public Service Appellate Tribunal
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25009)

07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE

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

21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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

04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Foreign Relations
- Div. 506 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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

08 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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

90 - PUBLIC DEBT

- 1 Public Debt

52 - 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

55 - SUPREME COURT

- 1 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 2 Magistrates' Department

56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

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

41 - 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 Programme
 Div. 543 Ministry of Education

Assembly resumed.**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1999.

In Committee of Supply

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

12 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

22 - 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

Assembly Resumed.**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.11 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Wednesday, 14th April, 1999.

D. C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

13th April, 1999.