

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 41st SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 2000
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)

The Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, 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

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. 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. 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

*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

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

*The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility
for Finance

*The Hon. Geoffrey Da Silva, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

*Non elected Minister

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

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent-on leave)

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Alston A. Kisson, 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.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

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)

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. (Absent-on leave)

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

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (In the Chair)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

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.

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

Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., 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)

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.

(ii) The United Force (2)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mr. Matthew R. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)

(iii) Alliance for Guyana (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

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.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Absence of Speaker

The Deputy Speaker said that she had been informed that the Speaker was unavailable to be present at that day's sitting of the Assembly.

(ii) **Resignation of Dr. Hughley Hanoman**

The Deputy Speaker announced that, in a letter dated 21st March, 2000, addressed to the Speaker, Dr. Hughley Hanoman resigned his seat as a Member of the National Assembly.

With Dr. Hanoman'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 has to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Dr. Hanoman's name was extracted.

As Dr. Hanoman's name was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic list of candidates, the Speaker would, in accordance with section 99A of the said Act, call 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 in the Assembly.

(iii) **Leave**

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Winston Murray for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-(1) By the **Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:**

Third Report on the Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform
(Dated March 3, 2000).

(Circulated)

(2) By the **Minister of Foreign Affairs:**

✓ (i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1997.

(Circulated)

✓ ii) ✓ Protocol IV - Trade Policy - Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community

(Signed on 6th, 7th and 13th July, 1999).

(Circulated)

✓ (iii) ✓ Protocol VI - Transport Policy - Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community

(Signed on 4th and 13th July, 1999).

(Circulated)

iv Protocol VII - Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors - Amending
the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community
(Signed on 4th and 13th July, 1999).

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Local Government:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Local Government for the year 1998.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:

Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2000.

(Circulated)

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER**

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a)

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 9(2) and 32(9)(a) be suspended to enable the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance to complete uninterrupted the reading of the Budget Speech for 2000 at the sitting of the Assembly on Monday, 27th March, 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 74 (M33 Govt 29) published 2000-03-21)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - BUDGET FOR 2000 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2000

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the National Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000.

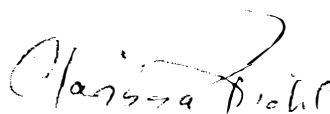
The Minister then moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000 of the total sum of \$43,789,923,000 excluding \$18,383,679,000 which is chargeable by law (see Appendix).

The Minister read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.44 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Monday, 3rd April, 2000.



CLARISSA S. RIEHL
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

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

27th March, 2000.

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