

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 46TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2000
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

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 (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 (Absent)

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

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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. Kissoon, 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.

Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Bijulee Moti, 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)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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. (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. Dagleish 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 - on leave)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

Miss 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)

4.

(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.

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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Mrs. Bijulee Moti

The Speaker informed the Assembly that following the resignation of Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, and his call upon the representative of the People's Progressive Party/Civic List of Candidates, he had been informed that the name of Mrs. Bijulee Moti had been extracted from the list and that Mrs. Bijulee Moti was, on 6th April, 2000, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

Before Mrs. Moti can take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, she would have to make and subscribe the oath before the Assembly, as required by article 167 of the Constitution.

As Mrs. Bijulee Moti was present, she made and subscribed the oath which was administered to her by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Congratulations and Welcome to New Member**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mrs. Bijulee Moti on her becoming a Member of the Assembly.

He welcomed Mrs. Moti to the Assembly and extended best wishes to her.

(ii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -
Mr. Alston Kissoon for that day's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

**MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE
FOR 2000 (2000 BUDGET)**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.53 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 12

With the leave of the Speaker, under Standing Order No. 83, Standing Order No. 12 was, on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, suspended to enable the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 to be introduced at that stage.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

Presentation and First Reading

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - BILL No. 5/2000

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to
alter the Constitution in
accordance with articles 66 and 164.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE 2000 BUDGET

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
The Minister of Information
Mr. Matthew R. Charlie
The Minister of Amerindian Affairs.

Presiding of Deputy Speaker

While the Minister of Amerindian Affairs was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the sitting and the Deputy Speaker took the Chair temporarily.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Joseph L. Hamilton
The Minister of Local Government.

Return of Speaker

While the Minister of Local Government was speaking, the Speaker returned and resumed the Chair.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte
The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs.

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000, Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider and dispose of the Report of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Speaker reported that the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply met on 4th April, 2000, considered the allocation of time for the consideration of the 2000 Estimates of Expenditure in the Committee of Supply, and passed a Resolution on the matter.

Copies of the Sub-Committee's Minutes, Resolution and Time Table had been circulated to Members at the sitting on 4th April, 2000.

On a motion by the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in its Resolution.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with the Resolution, the Committee of Supply would commence consideration of the 2000 Estimates of Expenditure on Monday, 10th April, 2000.

Assembly Resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.55 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 10th April, 2000.



D.C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

7th April, 2000.