

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 50TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 27TH 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

*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. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Absent -
on leave)

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 (Absent)

*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 (Absent)

*The Hon. Sainarine 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 (Absent - on
leave)

*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.

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent)

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.

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) (Absent)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Members of the Opposition (29)**(i) People's National Congress (25)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P. Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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. (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

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

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., 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)

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) (Absent)

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

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

(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. (Absent)

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 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Election of and Congratulations to Leader of the Opposition**

The Speaker stated for the record of the National Assembly, that, at a Meeting which was held under his Chairmanship, on 19th April, 2000, the Non Governmental Members of the National Assembly, in pursuance of article 184 of the Constitution of Guyana, as repealed and re-enacted by section 6 of the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), elected Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte to be Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Hoyte.

(ii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to -

the Hon. Ramnauth Bisnauth,
the Hon. Indranie Chandarpal,
the Hon. Geoffrey Da Silva,
Mr. Desmond Hoyte,
Mr. Winston Murray,
Mr. Dunstan Barrow, and
Mrs. Volda Lawrence.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the **Speaker:**

Verbatim Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting held on 19th April, 2000,
on the Election of the Leader of the Opposition.

(Circulated)

(2) By the **Prime Minister:**

Berbice Deep Water Shipping Facility Board Order 1999 (No. 49 of 1999).

(Circulated)

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

Fourth Report on the Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform
(Dated April 8, 2000).

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1- CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2000

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$924,847,947, for the period ended 31st December, 1999 -

~~Advances made from~~
the Contingencies Fund.

(Paper presented on 2000-04-03)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

“RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$924,847,947, for the period ended 31st December, 1999 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.”

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 2- CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FUND BILL 1999 - Bill No. 11/1999 published 1999-07-03

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect
to the Agreement establishing the
Caribbean Investment Fund and to
provide for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 1999-07-01)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Kadim Khan

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

7.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for 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 3- INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 2/2000 published 2000-01-20

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Income Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for 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 4 - THE NEW BUILDING SOCIETY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 1/2000 published 2000-01-20

The Minister of Housing and Water moved the second reading of the following Bill:

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
New Building Society Act.
(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Housing and Water 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 5 - DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000 - Bill No. 3/2000
published 2000-02-12

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Drainage and Irrigation Act.
(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ivor Allen

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary 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 6 - BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 -
Bill No. 4/2000 published 2000-02-12

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Business Names (Registration) Act.
(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Raphael Trotman
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

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

Clause 1 to 9 were passed as printed.

Clause 10

The following amendment by Mr. Raphael Trotman was put and negatived:

Substitution of the words “five thousand dollars” for the words “ten thousand dollars”.

Clause 10 was passed as printed.

Clause 11 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.57 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


D.C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

27th April, 2000.