

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 44th Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 1969

PRESENT:

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. O.E. Clarke - In the Chair

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., Prime Minister

Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance

The Honourable M. Kasim, Minister of Communications

The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, Minister of Home Affairs

The Honourable C.M.L. John, Minister of Local Government

Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of Education

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction

The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works and Hydraulics

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E. J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics

Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron

Miss M.M. Ackman

Mr. K. Bancroft

Mr. L.I. Chan-Sue

Mr. E.F. Correia

Mr. M. Corrica

Mr. E.H.A. Fowler

Mrs. P.A. Limerick

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Mr. D.A. Singh

Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman

Mr. C.E. Wrights

Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. Ram Karan
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. G.H. Lall
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. M.B. Henry

Absent

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj, C.B.E., J.P.	- on leave
The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources	- on leave
The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs	- on leave
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and Social Security	- on leave
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C., Attorney-General and Minister of State	
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information	
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister without Portfolio	- on leave
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health	- on leave
Mr. P. Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister	
Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.	- on leave
Mr. D.C. Jagan	- on leave
Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P.	- on leave
Mr. E.M. Stoby	
Mr. V. Teekah	- on leave
Mr. R.E. Cheeks	

PRAYERS

The Deputy Clerk read Prayers

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

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government, Standing Order No. 9(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to sit until midnight.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILLS - Second and Third Readings and CommitteeITEM 1 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) BILL, 1969 -
Bill No. 23/1969 published 3. 10. 69

Assembly resumed the debate on the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FOR THE PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL REGISTERS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUCH ELECTIONS, FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DISPUTES IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ELECTIONS AND OF DISPUTES IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTIONS TO CERTAIN OFFICES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL TO AND CONNECTED WITH THE AFORESAID PURPOSES.

The Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government 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 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The following amendment by the Minister of Local Government was put and carried:

Deletion of the definition of "registration officer" and substitution therefor of the following definition:

"registration officer" means -

- (a) an electoral registrar;
- (b) a deputy registrar;
- (c) an assistant electoral registrar;

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karan was put and negatived:

Deletion of subsection (2).

Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

Clause 4 was passed as printed.

Clause 5 - The following amendment by the Minister of Local Government was put and carried:

In subsection (1) the insertion immediately after the word "such" in the second line, of the words "deputy registrar".

Clause 5 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 6 to 11 were passed as printed.

Clause 12 - The following amendment by the Minister of Local Government was put and carried:

In subsection (1) the deletion of the the words "by reason that he is not a person qualified to be registered by virtue of a residential qualification" from sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (b).

The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negated:

In subsection (2) the deletion of the words "three dollars" and the substitution thereof of the words "fifty cents" in the second line.

Clause 12 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 13 and 14 were passed as printed.

Clause 15 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negated:

In subsection (3) the insertion, immediately after the word "card" in the second line, of the words and comma "if any, or an affidavit supporting his claim," and the deletion of the comma and words ", or the assistant electoral registrar is otherwise satisfied as to the identity of the applicant".

Clause 15 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 16 and 17 were passed as printed.

Clause 18 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negated:

In subsection (1) the insertion of the following immediately after "(iii)" of paragraph (b):

" (iv) Representative of political parties reasonably expected to contest the elections and members of the press;" and the renumbering of "(iv)" and "(v)" as "(v)" and "(vi)" respectively.

Clause 18 was then passed as printed.

Clause 19 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negated:

Insertion of the words and commas ", if any," between the words "card" and "of" in the fourth line of paragraph (a).

Clause 19 was then passed as printed.

Clause 20 - The following amendments by the Minister of Local Government were put and carried:

- (i) In subsection (3) the deletion of the words and comma "any person on behalf of whom the objection or application is made," in the second line.
- (ii) Insertion of the following as subsection (9):

" (9) A deputy registrar shall, if directed by the Minister so to do, hear and determine objections and applications lodged under section 12, and he shall, for such purposes have all the powers of an electoral registrar under this section. "

The following amendment by Mr. Chandisingh was put and negatived:

In subsection (2) the insertion of the words and commas "in all the daily newspapers, giving at least seven days notice," between the words "publish" and "a" in the first line of paragraph (a).

Clause 20 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.36 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee.

In Committee

Clause 21 was passed as printed.

Clause 22 - The following amendments by the Minister of Local Government were put and carried:

In subsection (1):

- (a) The insertion immediately after the word "his" in the second line of paragraph (a), of the words "or a deputy registrar's"; and
- (b) The insertion immediately after the word "his" in the second line of paragraph (b), of the words "or a deputy registrar's".

Clause 22 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 23 to 33 were passed as printed.

Clause 34 - The following amendment by Mr. Chandisingh was put and negatived:

Deletion of all the words immediately after the word "by" in the third line and the substitution therefor of the word "Parliament".

Clause 34 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 35 to 37 were passed as printed.

Clause 38 - Mr. L.F. Singh moved the following amendment:

Deletion of subsection (2).

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Sutton	Mr. Zaheeruddeen
Mr. M.F. Singh	Mr. Wrights
Mrs. DaSilva	Mr. Van Sluytman
Mrs. Sahoye	Mr. D.A. Singh
Mr. Remington	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Bholu Persaud	Mrs. Limerick
Mr. Balchand Persaud	Mr. Corrica
Mrs. Branco	Mr. Correia
Mr. Ambrose	Mr. Chan-A-Sue
Mr. R. Ally	Mr. Bancroft
Mr. R.D. Persaud	Miss Ackman
Mr. M.Y. Ally	Mr. Aaron
Mr. Lall	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Salim
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Haynes
Mr. Ram Karran	Mr. Joaquin
	Mr. Ramsaroop
	Mrs. Patterson
	Mr. John
	Mr. Hoyte
	Mr. Kasim
	Dr. Reid
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Clause 38 was then passed as printed.

Clause 39 was passed as printed.

Clause 40 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negatived:

In subsection (2) the addition of the the following immediately after paragraph (i):

" (j) has any contract with the authority or is a director or member of any cooperative that has such a contract;

(k) owes to the council rates for more than one year. "

Clause 40 was then passed as printed.

Clause 41 - Mr. M.F. Singh moved the following amendment:

In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "21st" and substitution thereof of the figures and letters "30th" in the second line.

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Sutton	Mr. Zaheeruddeen
Mr. M.F. Singh	Mr. Wrights
Mrs. Sahoye	Mr. Van Sluytman
Mr. Remington	Mr. D.A. Singh
Mr. Bholā Persaud	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Balchand Persaud	Mrs. Limerick
Mrs. Branco	Mr. Fowler
Mr. Ambrose	Mr. Corrica
Mr. R. Ally	Mr. Correia
Mr. R.D. Persaud	Mr. Chan-A-Sue
Mr. M.Y. Ally	Miss Ackman
Mr. Lall	Mr. Aaron
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Salim
Mr. Ram Karan	Mr. Haynes
	Mr. Joaquin
	Mr. Ramsarocop
	Mrs. Patterson
	Mr. John
	Mr. Hoyte
	Mr. Kasim
	Dr. Reid
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Clause 41 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 42 to 45 were passed as printed.

Clause 46 - The following amendments were put and negatived:

By Mr. M.F. Singh

- (i) In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "21st" and the substitution thereof of the figures and letters "29th".
- (ii) In subsection (2) the deletion of the figures and letters "21st" and the substitution thereof of the figures and letters "29th" in the first line.

By Mr. Wilson

- (i) In subsection (1) the insertion of the words "in writing" between the comma and the word "specifying" in the last line.

- (ii) In subsection (2) the insertion in paragraph (a) of the words "in writing" between the words "inform" and "the" in the second line, and also the insertion immediately after the word "concerned" at the end of the paragraph of the words "and the person whose name appears on more than one list of candidates"
- (iii) In subsection (2) the insertion of the words "by a sworn statement tendered to him that" between the words "satisfied" and "he" in the second line of paragraph (b).

By Mr. Remington

Substitution of a comma for the full stop after the word "defective" in subsection (3) and the addition of the following:

"and return to the representative or deputy representative for correction and if re-submitted within the statutory time, shall be accepted as satisfactory. "

By Mr. Sutton

In subsection (3) the deletion of the words "other than the first one delivered to the returning officer" in the third line, and the word "other" in the fourth line.

Clause 46 was then passed as printed.

Clause 47 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

Deletion of the figures and letters "20th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "27th" in the second line.

Clause 47 was then passed as printed.

Clause 48 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "21st" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "30th" in the second line.

Clause 48 was then passed as printed.

Clause 49 - The following amendments by Mr. M.F. Singh were put and negatived:

- (i) In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "20th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "26th" in the third line.

- (ii) In subsection (3) the deletion of the figures and letters "20th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "26th" in the first line.

Clause 49 was then passed as printed.

Clause 50 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "20th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "24th" in the third line.

Clause 51 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

Deletion of the figures and letters "18th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "20th" in the first line.

Clause 51 was then passed as printed.

Clause 52 was passed as printed.

Clause 53 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

Deletion of the figures and letters "19th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "21st" in the fourth line of the proviso to subsection (1).

Clause 54 - Consideration of the clause was deferred.

Clause 55 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

In subsection (1) the deletion of the figures and letters "21st" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "30th" in the second line.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.11 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to continue consideration of Bill No. 23.

In Committee

Clauses 56 to 58 were passed as printed.

Clause 59 - The following amendment by the Minister of Local Government was put and carried:

In subsection (1) the substitution of the figures "79" for the figures "40" in the last line.

Clause 59 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 60 and 61 were passed as printed.

Clause 62 - The following amendments were put and negatived:

By Mr. Sutton

In subsection (1) the deletion of the words "or for other good cause" in the third and fourth lines of paragraph (g).

By Mr. M.F. Singh

In subsection (3) the deletion of the words "three registered voters" and the substitution therefor of the words "one registered voter".

By Mr. Ram Karran on behalf of Dr. Jagan

In subsection (1) the deletion of of paragraph (g).

By Mr. Remington

In subsection (4) the deletion of all the words immediately after the word "place" in the second line and the substitution therefor of the words "not earlier than one hour before the closing of the poll".

Clause 62 was then passed as printed.

Clause 63 was passed as printed.

Clause 64 - Mr. M.F. Singh moved the following amendment:

In subsection (3) the substitution of a comma for the full stop at the end of the subsection and the addition of the following "and the returning officer shall on the request of an election agent, allow him on the 4th day before election day, to inspect and copy the list".

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Sutton	Mr. Zaheeruddeen
Mr. M.F. Singh	Mr. Wrights
Mrs. Sahoye	Mr. Van Sluytman
Mr. Remington	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Bhola Persaud	Mrs. Limerick
Mr. Balchand Persaud	Mr. Fowler
Mrs. Branco	Mr. Correia
Mr. Ambrose	Mr. Chan-A-Sue
Mr. R. Ally	Mr. Bancroft
Mr. R.D. Persaud	Miss Ackman
Mr. M.Y. Ally	Mr. Aaron
Mr. Lall	Mr. Thomas
Dr. Ramsahoye	Mr. Salim
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Haynes
Mr. Ram Karran	Mr. Joaquin
	Mr. Ramsaroop
	Mrs. Patterson
	Mr. John
	Mr. Hoyte
	Mr. Kasim
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Clause 64 was then passed as printed.

Clause 65 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negatived:

Insertion, immediately after the word "proxies" at the end of (b), of the words "and inform the representative or deputy representative of each list".

Clause 65 was then passed as printed.

Clause 66 - The following amendment by Mr. M.F. Singh was put and negatived:

Deletion of the figures and letters "10th" and the substitution therefor of the figures and letters "15th" in the second line.

Clause 66 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 67 to 71 were passed as printed.

Clause 72 - The following amendments were put and negatived:

Mr. Mr. Ram Karran

- (i) In subsection (1) the insertion of the words "not exceeding the number of votes on the list" between the words "paper" and "and" in the first line of (a).

- (ii) In subsection (1) the substitution of the word "seals" for "seal" and the addition of, immediately after the word "officer", the comma and words ", and other representative of each list".

Mr. Balchand Persaud

Remumbering of subsection (3) as subsection (4) and the insertion of the following as a new subsection (3):

"The ballot box shall have as many staples as there are lists of candidates and the representative of each list shall be entitled to attach a padlock thereto at the close of the poll."

Clause 72 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 73 to 75 were passed as printed.

Clause 76 - The following amendment by Mr. Balchand Persaud was put and negatived:

In subsection (1) the addition of the semi-colon and words "; except that candidate may be relieved for a reasonable period or periods for refreshments by another candidate" immediately after the word "place" at the end of the subsection.

Clause 76 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 77 to 96 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 10.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for coffee.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 10.28 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee.

In Committee

Clauses 97 to 143 were passed as printed.

Clause 144 - The following amendment by Mr. Chandisingh was put and negatived:

Deletion of the words "the local authority" in the third line and the substitution therefor of the word "Parliament".

Clause 144 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 145 to 208 were passed as printed.

Schedules 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 54 was recommitted and passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government the Bill was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Sutton
Mr. Wrights	Mr. M.F. Singh
Mr. Van Sluytman	Mrs. Sahoye
Mr. D.A. Singh	Mr. Remington
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Bhola Persaud
Mrs. Limerick	Mr. Balchand Persaud
Mr. Fowler	Mrs. Branco
Mr. Corrica	Mr. Ambrose
Mr. Correia	Mr. R. Ally
Mr. Chan-A-Sue	Mr. R.D. Persaud
Mr. Bancroft	Mr. M.Y. Ally
Miss Ackman	Mr. Lall
Mr. Aaron	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Thomas	Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Salim	Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Haynes	
Mr. Joaquin	
Mr. Ramsaroop	
Mrs. Patterson	
Mr. John	
Mr. Hoyte	
Mr. Kasim	
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ITEM 2 - MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL, 1969 -
Bill No. 24/1969 published 3. 10. 69

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the following Bill clause by clause:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE BETTER PROVISION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN AND THE TOWN OF NEW AMSTERDAM AND IN OTHER AREAS OF GUYANA.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 8 were passed as printed.

Clause 9 - The following amendment by Mr. Balchand Persaud was put and negatived:

Insertion of the words "by secret ballot" between the words "elected" and "annually" in subsection (1).

Clause 9 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 10 and 11 were passed as printed.

Clause 12 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negatived:

Deletion of the provision to subsection (2).

Clause 12 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 13 to 16 were passed as printed.

Clause 17 - The following amendment by Mr. Ram Karran was put and negatived:

Deletion of all the words immediately after the word "the" in the second line and the substitution therefor of the following words "the councillor who shall assume and perform the functions of Mayor until the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor is able to function, shall be determined by lot from among those receiving an equality of votes" in subsection (4).

Clause 17 was then passed as printed.

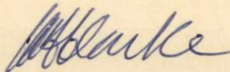
Clauses 18 to 20 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

Before the adjournment was taken the Minister of Local Government announced that at the next sitting the Assembly would sit until the conclusion of the business for the day.

ADJOURNMENT

At midnight, on a motion by the Minister of Local Government, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 17th October, 1969.



O. E. CLARKE
Deputy Speaker.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

17th October, 1969.