

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 24TH MAY, 2001

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (67)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (35)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Skaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

- The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- *The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs
- The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health
- Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)
- Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.
- Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
- Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.
- Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
- Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.
- Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.
- Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
- Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (31)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

Mr. Vincent Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

(iv) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

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

The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H.

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., was appointed Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, with effect from 21st May, 2001. The Speaker stated that Mr. Insanally was not an elected Member of the

National Assembly but, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, he had become a Member of the Assembly, in accordance with article 105 of the Constitution.

Before Mr. Insanally could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he would have to make and subscribe the oath of office, as required by article 167 of the Constitution.

Mr. Insanally made and subscribed the oath which was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations to new Minister

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Rudy Insanally on his appointment as a Minister, welcomed him to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him for a successful term of office.

(ii) Appointment of Whips

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr. Feroze Mohamed and Mr. Lance Carberry, had been appointed Government and Opposition Whips, respectively, with effect from 4th May, 2001. He extended congratulations and best wishes to the two Members.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker stated that leave had been granted to Dr. George Norton up to 2nd June, 2001.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

- (i) ¹ Minimum Wages (Employees at Petrol Filling Stations) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 34 of 2000)

- ✓ (ii) Minimum Wages (Watchmen) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 35 of 2000)
- (iii) Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Minimum Rate of Wages) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 36 of 2000)
- (iv) Minimum Wages (Mechanical Transport Employees) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 37 of 2000)
- (v) Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 38 of 2000)
- (vi) Minimum Wages (Cinema Employees) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 39 of 2000)
- (vii) Minimum Wages (Shirt and Garment Workers) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 40 of 2000)
- (viii) Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 41 of 2000)
- (ix) Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 42 of 2000)
- (x) Minimum Wages (Employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 2000 (No. 43 of 2000)

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Health:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 1999.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS) VALIDATION BILL 2001 - Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to validate the constitution and proceedings of the Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, constituted pursuant to the declaration on 19th day of December, 1997 of the results of the national and regional elections, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(2) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 6/2001**
published 17.5.2001

The Minister of 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.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President, Mr. Bharrat Jadgeo, for his Address to the National Assembly which was made on the occasion of the Ceremonial Opening of the First Session of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana on Friday, 4th May, 2001, and approves of the policy adumbrated therein.

(Notice Paper No. 1 (M1 Govt 1) published 17.5.2001)

Mr. Cyril Belgrave seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Mr. Vincent Alexander

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.57 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Health

Mrs. Shirley Melville

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for
Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Volda Lawrence

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Jerome Khan

The Minister of Agriculture

Thereafter, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.37 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 31st May, 2001.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

24th May, 2001.