

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**OF THE 3RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 31ST 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
- 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 (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

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

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent)

Dr. Dalgleish 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. (Absent - on leave)

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.

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

- (i) The Speaker informed Members that on 12th February, 2001, a Report with a copy of the Judgment delivered on 15th January, 2001, and Consequential Orders made by the Honourable Justice Claudette Singh on 26th January, 2001, were received from the High Court.

As required by section 35 of the National Assembly (Validity of Elections) Act, Chapter 1:04 of the Laws of Guyana, the Report was submitted to the National Assembly by the Speaker on 13th February, 2001. Copies of the Judgment and of the Consequential Orders had been reproduced and circulated to Members of the Assembly at that time.

The Speaker stated that he had received from the Honourable Claudette Singh, Justice of Appeal, a letter dated 17th April, 2001, with a Schedule containing a list of the findings of the Court in relation to the illegal practices which prevailed.

He submitted these to the National Assembly and, for the record, he read the letter.

Copies of the letter and of the Schedule were reproduced and were circulated to the Members of the Assembly.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

Mr. Desmond Hoyte

and

Jerome Khan up to 2nd June, 2001,

and to Mr. Lance Carberry for that day's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- ✓ Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1999.

(Circulated)

- (2) ✓ By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs:
Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1998.
(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 7/2001**

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.

(2) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 8/2001**

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.

(3) **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 9/2001**

The Minister of Parliament 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**ITEM 1 - COMMITTEE OF SELECTION**

On a proposal by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly nominated the following 8 Members to comprise the Committee of Selection (with the Speaker as Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order No. 70 (1) (b)):-

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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

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

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed,
Chief Whip

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar

From the People's National Congress/Reform (3)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin

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

Mr. E. Lance Carberry,
Chief Whip

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

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

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

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

(Read a first time on 25.5.2001)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Bernard DeSantos

Mr. Winston Murray was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the Sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

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

Mr. Winston Murray continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai

Mr. Raphael Trotman

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and was supported by the votes of the following fifty-seven (57) of the sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Melville

Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen

Miss David

Mr. Ally

Mrs. Bancroft

Mr. R. Khan

Miss Nestor

Mr. McAllister

Miss Peterkin

Miss Adams

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Dr. Ramsaran

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Rajkumar

Mr. Mohan

Mr. Lumumba

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. DeSantos

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Dr. Ramsammy

Miss Rodrigues

Miss Shadick

Miss Ally
Dr. Joseph

Mr. Alexander
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Ming
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen

Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

Mr. Xavier
Dr. Westford
Mr. Sawh
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| TOTAL | 57 |
|--------------|-----------|

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

Mrs. Deborah Backer moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion of the following after subparagraph (iii) -

“(iv) in subparagraph (c), by the deletion of the words -
“if the President deems fit,”

Clause 2 was passed as amended.

Clauses 3 and 4 were passed as printed.

Clause 5

The following typographical errors were corrected in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a):

Insertion of the word “from” after the words “Minority Leader”
in the second line.

Insertion of the word “among” after the words “Leader of the Opposition from”
in the sixth line.

Clause 5 was passed as corrected.

Clauses 6 to 10 and the Schedule were passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reported and moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following fifty-eight (58) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

Mr. Dev

Mrs. Sukhai
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Dr. Ramsarran

Mrs. Melville
Mrs. Holder

Miss Allen
Miss David
Mr. Ally
Mrs. Bancroft
Mr. R. Khan
Mr. Kadir
Miss Nestor
Mr. McAllister
Miss Peterkin

Miss Adams
Miss Ally
Dr. Joseph

Mr. Alexander
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Ming
Mr. Bernard
Mrs. Backer
Mr. Allen

Mrs. Riehl
Mr. Murray
Mr. Corbin

Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Ramdas
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. DeSantos
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Chand
Mr. Alli
Mr. Ramotar
Mr. Belgrave
Mr. Mohamed
Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Rodrigues
Miss Shadick
Mr. Xavier
Dr. Westford
Mr. Sawh
Mr. Collymore
Dr. Bisnauth
Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Baksh
Mr. Kowlessar
Dr. Jeffrey
Miss Teixeira
Mr. Nokta
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Persaud
Mr. Hinds

TOTAL 58

The Bill was read the third time and passed as amended and corrected.

**ITEM 3 - SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
(CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS) VALIDATION BILL 2001**
Bill No. 5/2001 published 17.5.2001

At the request of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

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.

(Read a first time on 24.5.2001)

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.54 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 7th June, 2001.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

31st May, 2001.