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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2001

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government (37)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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. Shaik 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 (Absent - on leave)

* The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

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. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

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. (Absent - on leave)

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.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(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.

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

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Miss Amna 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.

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)

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

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:

The Hon. Clement Rohee,

The Hon. Rudolph Insanally,

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl and

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, for that day's Sitting

and

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal up to 16th December, 2001, and

Mr. Stanley Ming up to 5th December, 2001.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) ✓ Financial Paper No. 2/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$742,265,595, for the period 5th July, 2001 to 9th November, 2001 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

- (ii) ✓ Financial Paper No. 3/2001 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,405,529,861, for the period ending 31st December, 2001.

(Circulated)

(iii) Agreements (3) between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- a) ✓ Loan Contract No. 1044/SF-GY dated June 14, 2000 for US\$27,000,000 for the Low-Income Settlement Program;
- b) ✓ Loan Contract No. 1047/SF-GY dated June 14, 2000 for US\$27,000,000 for the Georgetown Water Supply and Sewerage Program II; and
- c) ✓ Loan Contract No. 1052/SF-GY dated May 24, 2000 for US\$900,000 for the Environmental Improvement of the Georgetown Interim Disposal Site.

(iv) Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC DI) Debt Relief Agreements (7) between the Multilateral Creditors and the Government of Guyana pursuant to the Original HIPC Debt Initiative Framework approved by the joint IMF/World Bank Boards on May 13, 1999 as detailed below:-

- ✓ a) HIPC Debt Relief Agreement No. HIPC-006-GY between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Guyana for SDR805,992 signed on October 18, 2000;
- b) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement between the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Government of Guyana for US\$7,300,000 signed on January 26, 2001;

- c) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana for US\$7,500,000 signed on October 21, 1999;
- d) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement between the European Commission and the Government of Guyana for EUR6,440,000 signed on February 16, 2000;
- e) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement between the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility and the Government of Guyana for US\$28,600,000 signed on May 14, 1999;
- f) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement No.TF022456 between the International Development Association and the Government of Guyana for US\$27,108,000 signed on July 22, 1999; and
- g) ✓ HIPC Debt Relief Agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana signed on July 30, 1999.

(v) ✓ Bilateral Agreements (5) on the reduction and consolidation of the external debt between the following Bilateral Creditors and the Government of Guyana in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999 as detailed below: -

- (a) ✓ UK/Guyana Debt Agreement No. 5 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Guyana for US\$15,191,033.22 and GBP7,969,073.73 signed on September 11, 2000 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999;
- (b) ✓ Bilateral Agreement on the reduction and consolidation of the external debt service obligations of the Government of Guyana to the Government of the Netherlands for US\$140,101.65 and NLG4, 298,919.69 entered into on August 3, 2000 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999;
- (c) ✓ Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guyana regarding the reduction and reorganisation of certain debts owed to, guaranteed by, or insured by the United States Government and its Agencies, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) and U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) for US\$1,1761,780.17 and US\$178,520.91 respectively, signed on December 20, 2000 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999;

- (d) ✓ Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of Guyana on the reduction and consolidation of debt for US\$566,268.69 signed on November 17, 2000 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999; and
- ✓ (e) Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Guyana on the reduction and consolidation of foreign debt of the Government of Guyana for DM698,076.51 (FRG portion) and DM3,250,606.11 (Ex-GDR portion), signed on December 13, 2000 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce:

Sanata Textiles Limited (Dissolution and Transfer of Assets and Liabilities) Order 2000 (No. 49 of 2000).

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2001 - Bill No. 13/2001

The Minister of Health moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
 Medical Practitioners Act 1991.
 (Read a first time on 15.11.2001)

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Health replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Bill was committed to a Select Committee.

ITEM 2 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2001 -

Bill No. 12/2001

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Vincent Alexander

Mrs. Sheila Holder

Mr. Robert Corbin

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 3

Mr. Vincent Alexander moved an amendment to add the following as Clause 3.

“3. Section 36A(1) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following proviso:-

Provided that -

- (a) the elections of Mayors and Deputy Mayors shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of sections 9(1) and 13(1) of Municipal and District Councils Act, Chapter 28:01, and
- (b) the elections of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section 5A of the Local Democratic Organs Act 1980 and section 28 of the Local Government Act, Chapter 28:02”.

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development spoke to the amendment.

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mrs. Melville
Mrs. Holder

AGAINST

Mrs. Sukhai
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Ramdas
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Mohan
Mr. Lumumba

Miss Allen
 Miss David
 Mr. Ally
 Mrs. Bancroft
 Mr. R. Khan
 Mr. Kadir
 Miss Nestor
 Mr. McAllister
 Miss Peterkin
 Dr. Norton
 Mr. J. Khan
 Miss Adams
 Miss Ally
 Dr. Joseph

Mr. Goveia
 Mr. Alexander

Mr. Bernard
 Mrs. Backer
 Mr. Allen
 Mr. Carberry

Mr. Murray
 Mr. Corbin
 Mr. Hoyte

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Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos

Mr. Chand
 Mr. Alli
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Mohamed
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Miss Rodrigues
 Mr. Nadir
 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. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

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Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

**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 4.04 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 6th December, 2001.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

29th November, 2001.