

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 19TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 2003
IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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

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 (Absent)

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

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

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. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal 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. 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.
Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/Supenaam)
Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)(Absent)
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)
Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.
Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

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

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

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. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

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

Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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 - on leave)

OFFICERS

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawatie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.03 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Leave**

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

Mrs. Shirley Edwards up to 8th September, and

Mrs. Sheila Holder up to 7th September, 2003.

(ii) **Death of Mother of Mr. Robert Corbin**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly, the Clerk and staff of the Parliament Office and himself, conveyed deepest condolences to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Robert Corbin, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Iva Augusta Corbin who died on 31st July, 2003.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Agreements (3) between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-
- (i) Technical Co-operation Loan Agreement No. **1083/SF-GY** between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on October 5, 2001 for US\$250,000 for the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) of the Unserved Areas Electrification Project;
 - (ii) Loan Contract No. **1085/SF-GY** between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on January 15, 2002 for US\$20,000,000 for the Social Impact Amelioration Program - SIMAP III; and
 - (iii) Loan Contract No. **1094/SF-GY** between the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank signed on January 15, 2002 for US\$33,000,000 for the Mahaica-Rosignol Road Rehabilitation Project.
- (2) Agreement (1) between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-
- (ii) Loan Agreement No. **14/SFR-GUY** between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana signed on November 8, 2001 for US\$591,730 for the Road Improvement and Maintenance - TA Guyana Project.

(3) Bilateral Agreements (2) 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) Canada/Guyana Debt Agreement No. 5 between the Government of Canada and the Government of Guyana for US\$738,712.67 signed on March 30, 2001 in accordance with the **fifth** Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999; and
- (b) Agreement on Reduction and Reorganisation of Debts between the Governments of France and Guyana for US\$837,470.43 and Euros 219,032.47 signed on December 21, 2000 in accordance with the **fifth** Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999.

(4) Agreement (1) between the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Agreement No. **ATE/GUY/01M0001** between the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) and the Government of Guyana signed on August 10, 2001 for US\$2,122,084 for the purchase of a Second Hand Y - 12II Aircraft and Spare Parts for the Guyana Defence Force.

(5) Agreement (1) Financial Convention between Medio Credito Centrale S.P.A. and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Financial Convention between Medio Credito Centrale S.P.A. and the Government of Guyana for ITL 6,400,000,000 (equivalent to Euro 3,305,324) signed on August 27, and September 4, 2002 in Georgetown,

Guyana and Rome, Italy respectively for the Rehabilitation, Maintenance and Building of the Drainage and Irrigation Works in the areas of the Mahaica, Mahaicony and Abary (MMA) Rivers.

(Circulated)

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF REPORTS, EVIDENCE AND MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 8TH PARLIAMENT

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, on behalf of Winston S. Murray, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order 76(1) every Select Committee shall before the end of the session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee, a Sessional Select Committee, of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eighth Parliament, was unable, owing to the prorogation of Parliament on 27th November, 2002, to report on its examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and the Accounts of the Ministries, Departments, and Regions for the fiscal years ended 31st December, 1999 and 31st December, 2000, referred to it in that Session:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament take into account -

- (i) the abovementioned Reports of the Auditor General;
- (ii) the evidence and Minutes in respect of the examination of these reports; and
- (iii) make a report to the National Assembly on the examination of these Reports.

(Notice Paper No. 51(M24 Opp2) published 2003-07-30)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Donald Ramator.

The motion was put and carried.

Bills - Second Reading

ITEM 2 - VETERINARIANS BILL 2003 - Bill No. 14/2003 published on 2003-07-30

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration and control of veterinarians and animal health assistants; to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine; and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2003-07-23)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.P
Mrs. Shirley Melville, M.P.
The Hon. Minister of Health
Dr. George Norton

Thereafter, the Minister of Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Veterinarians Bill 2003 was referred to a Special Select Committee .

ITEM 3 - ANIMALS (MOVEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION) BILL 2003 -
Bill No. 15/2003 published on 2003-07-30

The Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to control the movement of animals into and from Guyana; to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases within Guyana; to protect and promote animal health and safety; and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2003-07-24)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

SUSPENSION

At 4.03 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION

At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Member also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Nasir Ally, M.P.

Thereafter, the Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Animals (Movement And Disease Prevention) Bill 2003 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

**ITEM 4 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT)(No. 2) Bill 2003 -
Bill No. 16/2003 published on 2003-07-30**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the Tax Act, the Consumption Tax Act, the Travel Voucher Tax Act, the Income Tax Act, the Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Act, and the Customs Act to institute certain tax policy reforms as regards remission of tax, the reduction of tax rates and allowing tax administration resources to be used more efficiently.

(Read a first time on 2003-08-04)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Jerome Khan

Mr. Doodnauth Singh

SUSPENSION

At 6:50 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION

At 7.50 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:-

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Robert Corbin

Mr. Ramesh Rajkumar

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

While Mr. Ramesh Rajkumar was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, Deputy Speaker presided during his absence.

Mr. Ramesh Rajkumar continued and concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment)(No. 2) Bill 2003 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

ITEM 5 - INVESTMENT BILL 2003 - Bill No. 17/2003 published on 2003-07-30

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for the rendering into law of the principles and practices that inform our present approach to investment.

(Read a first time on 2003-08-04)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. C. Stanley Ming

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba

Mr. James K. McAllister

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Investment Bill 2003 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

ITEM 6 - SMALL BUSINESS BILL 2003 - Bill No. 18/2003 published on 2003-07-30

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to provide for an incentive regime and support programme for small business; the establishment of the Small Business Council, the Small Business Bureau, the Small Business Development Fund and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2003-08-04)

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Miss Judith David

Mrs. Shirley V. Melville

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai

Mr. Ricky Khan

Thereafter, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Small Business Bill 2003 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

Meeting of Committee of Selection

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the Committee of Selection had met during the suspension of the sitting and had nominated Members to comprise the following three Special Select Committees:-

1. Special Select Committee to Review the Veterinarians Bill 2003 - Bill No. 14/2003 and the Animals (Movement And Disease Prevention) Bill 2003 - Bill No. 15/2003.
2. Special Select Committee to Review the Fiscal Enactments (Amendment)(No. 2) Bill 2003 - Bill No. 16/2003.
3. Special Select Committee to Review the Investment Bill 2003 - Bill No. 17/2003 and the Small Business Bill 2003 - Bill No. 18/2003.

Death of Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

The Speaker informed the Assembly that during the last evening Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P., had died at his residence.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended heartfelt sympathy to the family and relatives of the late Mr. Andy Goveia.

The Assembly stood and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Andy Goveia.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1.00 a.m., on Thursday, 14th August, 2003, a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 18th August, 2003.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

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

13th August, 2003.