

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 13TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1993) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 1ST JULY, 1993

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the
National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home
Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nolta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry
of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Pamnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of
Education and Cultural Development

*The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Information
in the Office of the President

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism
and Industry

Ms Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Callymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarnal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Labour, Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public
Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President

*Non-elected Member

Mr. Cyril C. Belorave, M.P.
 Mr. Brindley H. Benn, C.C.H., M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Ms Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Mr. Randolph Evans, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Ms Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Ms Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Dagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdass, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P. a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.P., S.C., J.P., M.P.
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Ms Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Ms Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Ms Anna Ally, M.P.
 Ms Jean M.G. Persico, A.P., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Ms Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Rynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Ms Jean C. Richards, M.P.
 Ms Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Iven Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Visit of Delegation from National People's Congress of People's Republic of China

The Speaker invited the attention of Members to the presence at the sitting of a Delegation from the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

The Speaker stated that the Delegation was headed by Her Excellency Madame Chen Mu Hua, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and comprised of three other persons from the Congress and some supporting staff. A full list of the Members of the Delegation including some biographical data on Madame Chen was circulated to Members of the Assembly. Madame Chen is the highest ranking female Party and Government functionary of the People's Republic of China.

The Delegation arrived in Guyana on 30th June, 1993 as part of a Caribbean tour which included Mexico, Barbados and Suriname.

The Speaker, on behalf of the National Assembly, extended a warm welcome to Madame Chen and the other Members and Officials of her Delegation, and wished them a pleasant and successful stay in Guyana.

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While in Guyana, the Delegation would familiarizing themselves with the aspects of Guyanese cultural life and activities and would be visiting agricultural and industrial sites and projects. They will be making calls on Ministers. The Delegation is scheduled to leave Guyana on Monday, 5th July, 1993.

The Speaker informed Members that the Delegation called on him yesterday and made a presentation of a mini bus to the Parliament Office and that the bus was in the front driveway of the Public Buildings Compound. It is a new beige fifteen seater Toyota Hiace.

The Speaker stated that this was the first vehicle that the Parliament Office had obtained. The Office took action and had the bus registered on 1st July 1993 as PEF 76, and the Office name was painted thereon.

The Speaker also stated that the Parliament Office will be seeking approval for the inclusion in its establishment of a new position of Driver and of the necessary financial provision required and will thereafter appoint the Driver.

The Speaker, on behalf of the National Assembly, expressed sincere thanks to Madame Chen and, through her, to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China for the very generous gift to the Parliament Office of a mini bus.

The Speaker further stated that with the need for transportation, the bus was most welcome and will be of great use to the Office. He invited Madame Chen and her Delegation to remain for the proceedings at the sitting of the National Assembly.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the Hon. Gail Teixeira from that day's sitting and Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte up to 31st July, 1993.

(iii) MPs and Former MPs, etc., Honoured

The Speaker announced that on the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the Independence of Guyana, on 26th May, 1993, persons who were honoured with National Awards included present and former Members of Parliament.

Mrs. Janet Jagan, a present Member, was awarded the Order of Excellence (O.E.), for her selfless role, her unflagging commitment and the eminence and distinction achieved by her in the struggle for independence of Guyana and more recently in the restoration of democracy in Guyana.

Mr. Roysie Ramkarran, a former Member, was awarded the Order of Excellence (O.E.), for his outstanding and exemplary political service in the pre and post independence periods in Guyana.

Mr. Earl Maxwell Gladstone Wilson, a former Member, was awarded the Order of Roraima (O.R.), for his outstanding service in the field of education and in the struggle for the independence of Guyana.

Mr. Brindley Horatio Benn, a present Member, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour (C.C.H.), for his outstanding service in the field of politics, especially in the struggle for the independence of Guyana and the restoration of democracy in Guyana.

Mr. Cedric Vernon Hunes, a former Member, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour (C.C.H.), for his outstanding service in the field of education and the struggle for the independence of Guyana.

Mrs. Regina Philomena Sahoye-Shury, a former Member, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour (C.C.H.), for her sustained and outstanding role in the struggle for the independence of Guyana.

Mrs. Christina Ramjattan, a former Member, was awarded the Medal of Service (M.S.), for long and dedicated service in the field of politics.

Also honoured on the occasion was one who had been associated for years with the work of Parliament in the production of Hansard.

Miss Eilren Rosaline Cox, received the Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A.), for her dedicated and outstanding service as an advocate of consumer protection and as a social worker.

The Speaker extended congratulations.

(iv) Fortieth Anniversary of Ministerial System

The Speaker also informed Members that the 18th of May, 1993, marked the 40th Anniversary of the first sitting of the Legislature of this country under a new Constitution which provided, for the first time for inter alia, a Ministerial system of Government and the Office of Speaker.

Of the persons who were legislators on that occasion, forty years ago, only one is a Member of the present Parliament, and that person is Mrs. Janet Jagan. In that Legislative body, Mrs Jagan was the Deputy Speaker. She was therefore the first Deputy Speaker of Guyana and the only woman so far to hold that Office.

He extended congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Jagan.

(v) Acts Nos. 2 to 15 of 1993 (Bills Nos. 1 to 14 of 1993)

The Speaker announced that Bills Nos. 1 to 9 of 1993 which were passed by the Assembly on 24th March, 1993, were assented to by the President on 16th April, 1993, and became Acts Nos. 2 to 10 of 1993. The nine Acts were published in the Gazette on 17th April, 1993.

Bills Nos. 10 to 14 of 1993 which were passed by the Assembly on 7th April, 1993, were assented to by the President on 3rd May, 1993, and became Acts Nos. 11 to 15 of 1993. These five Acts were published in the Gazette on 7th May, 1993.

All fourteen of these Acts - Nos. 2 to 15 of 1993 - were printed and copies were distributed to Members at that day's sitting.

(vi) Hansard for 4th Sitting on 12th March, 1993

The Speaker further informed Members that the Hansard for the 4th Sitting of the National Assembly which was held on 12th March, 1993, had been produced and printed copies were distributed to Members at that day's sitting.

(vii) CPA Journal - The Parliamentarian - January 1993 (LXXIV No. 1)

The Speaker further stated that copies of the quarterly journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for January 1993, were received from the Secretariat of the Association in London and were distributed to Members at that day's sitting.

(viii) CPA News - February 1993 (No. 153)

The Speaker announced that copies of the CPA News for February 1993, were received from the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, and were distributed to Members at that day's sitting.

(ix) Parliamentary Update - February 1993 (No. 77)

The Speaker stated that copies of the Parliamentary Update for February, 1993, were received from the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, and were distributed to Members at that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC. -(1) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House):

- (i) Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 1993 (No. 5), made under section 33 of the Fisheries Act, Chapter 71:08, on 25th April, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 15th May, 1993.

(A-16/5/17) (Circulated)

- (ii) Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited for 1991.

(17/6) (Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

- (i) Deeds Registry Fees (Amendment) Regulations 1993 (No. 8), made under section 44 of the Deeds Registry Act, Chapter 5:01, on 16th April, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 15th May, 1993.

(ST: 34/2/26) (Circulated)

- (ii) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 1993 (No. 9), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on 29th April 1993, and published in the Gazette on 12th May, 1993.

(ST: 8/25/3) (Circulated)

- (iii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 1993 (No. 10), made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 29th April, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 12th May, 1993.

(ST: 5/0) (Circulated)

- (iv) Report and Accounts of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for 1991.

(ST: 25/2/1/7^{III}) (Circulated)

- (v) Report of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for 1992.

(ST: 25/2/1/1^{II}) (Circulated)

- (vi) Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General for 1992.

(ST: 25/2/1/20^{II}) (Circulated)

- (vii) International Monetary Fund - Guyana - Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility - Economic and Financial Policy Framework Paper, 1992-1994 (November 20, 1992).

(ST: 14/1/27) (Circulated)

- (viii) Guyana Privatisation Policy Framework Paper (June 1993).

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) FIPEARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 15/1993 published 28.6.93

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), signified Cabinet's recommendation and, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Firearms Act.

(2) LEGITIMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 16/1993 published 28.6.93

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), signified Cabinet's recommendation and, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Legitimacy Act.

(3) MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 17/1993 published 28.6.93

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), signified Cabinet's recommendation and, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Marriage Act.

(4) UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 18/1993
published 28.6.93

The Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
University of Guyana Act.

(5) ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BILL 1993 - Bill No. 19/1993 published 28.6.93

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the High
Court Act and the Summary Jurisdiction
(Petty Debt) Act to extend the civil
jurisdiction of Magistrates' Courts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.26 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 15th July, 1993.



D.C. Jagan
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

12th July, 1993