

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 23RD 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, 30TH DECEMBER, 1993

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

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 (43)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent)

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 Nokta, 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. Ramnauth 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. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of  
Foreign Affairs (Absent)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

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

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, 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

\*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of  
Finance (Absent)

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\*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.  
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.  
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.  
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.  
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.  
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.  
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.  
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P. (Absent)  
 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.  
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic  
 Organs)  
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No.2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)  
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)  
 (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper  
 Essequibo) (Absent)  
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)  
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, 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)  
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Dr. Patrick L.McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (Absent)  
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.  
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)  
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.  
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.  
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., 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)  
 Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.  
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.  
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)  
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag  
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.  
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P.  
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.  
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local  
Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(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

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 for that day's sitting:-

Mr. Sase Narain  
Mr. Winston Murray  
and  
Mr. Andy Gouveia.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works,  
Communications and Regional Development:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Public  
Works, Communications and Regional  
Development for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 2 - REHABILITATION OF EAST BANK DEMERARA HIGHWAY

By Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin:

- (i) Will the Minister say what is the status of the loan which the previous administration had negotiated from the IDB for the rehabilitation of the East Bank Demerara Highway?

- (ii) Will the Minister say when will the rehabilitation works on this Highway begin?

Written reply by the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development:

LOAN INFORMATION

The Loan Contract LO-890/SF-GY was entered into between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (the Borrower) and the Inter-American Development Bank (The Bank) on March 5, 1993 after the passing of Resolution DE-143/92 in September 1992, by the Bank.

Loan Contract No: 890/SF-GY  
Between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Guyana (GOG)

Project Name: Main Road Rehabilitation Project  
Executing Agency: Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development (MPWCRD)

Contract Signed: March 5, 1993

Resolution: DE-143/92, September 16, 1992

Local Amount: (IDB): US\$23,400,000

(GOG): US\$2,600,000\*

Total: US\$26,000,000

Last Disbursement: March 5, 1997

First Amortization: September 5, 2003

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

Following discussions with the GOG, the Bank initiated a design study in 1991 for a Deferred Maintenance Programme for the trunk roads on the East Bank and East Coast of Demerara involving resurfacing, rehabilitation and shoulder construction where feasible.

The programme was finally formulated for approval of the IDB Board in September, 1992 and the Loan Contract signed in March 1993.

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\*These funds are being provided through the Agricultural Rehabilitation Special Account (ARSA) Facility.

## DESCRIPTION

With the project requirements more fully appreciated as the designs and drawings neared completion, the Ministry, at a meeting with the Representative of the IDB and the Minister of Finance in September 1993, requested the Bank's no objection to the advertisement for bids for the project in three following lots:

Georgetown to Timehri, including the  
Friendship Bridge Works  
Georgetown to Mahaica and  
Mahaica to Rosignol

The Projects aims at reducing transportation costs, travel time, accidents, maintenance costs and product losses during transportation and enhancing accessibility between the main productive areas and Georgetown.

## SUPERVISORY CONSULTANTS

Expressions of Interest were solicited from Consulting Firms by advertisements in Development Business - July 16, 1993 and in the Guyana Chronicle - July 2, 7 and 14, 1993 with the closing date for receipt of proposals being August 31, 1993. Ten (10) expressions of interest were received.

Evaluation of proposals and ranking are expected to be completed by December 1993, Cabinet and IDB approval in January 1994 with contract signing for March 1994. Mobilization of the Consultant is scheduled for April 1994.

## MAIN CONTRACTOR(S)

Notices of Prequalification of Contractors were sent out in Development Business on October 31, 1992 and in the local press (Guyana Chronicle) on October 8, 11 and 14, 1992. Letters were sent also to Embassies/ Consulates of IDB Member Countries resident in Guyana, on September 17, 1992.

Twenty-one (21) firms responded to the invitation with completed questionnaires and the selection committee formed by the Ministry carried out a prequalification exercise resulting in nine (9) firms being prequalified to bid, based on the concept of a single project.

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However, as the concept of implementing the project in three lots was accepted, request for proposals was once more sent to Development Business for publication in their issue No. ----- of December 31, 1993. Contractors who had previously submitted prequalification documents will be required only to submit financial proposals. Furthermore Contractors will be allowed to bid for any combination of the three lots.

It is envisaged that all project works will be completed within 24 months of the commencement of physical works.

#### MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

With the establishment of the need for an immediate, comprehensive maintenance programme for the East Bank Road and the eastern-most portion of the Georgetown to Mahaica segment, at a meeting between the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Works and the IDB, the Ministry requested and obtained the Bank's concurrence for the expenditure of Project Funds for the required maintenance works.

Since the proposed works are budgeted at US\$950,000 (less than one million US\$), bids were advertised only locally. Bids are scheduled to be advertised by mid November, 1993 for a possible start of physical works in January, 1994.

This Contract will end upon the mobilization of the Main Contractor(s), scheduled for July 1994.

#### QUESTION NO. 3 - LODGING OF MONEY FOR TRAVELLING TO SURINAME

By Mr. David Subnauth:

- (i) Is the Minister aware that Guyanese travelling to Suriname have to lodge 100 guilders at Nickerie, the port of entry, and that on their return to Guyana they are refunded 90 guilders?
- (ii) If the system is legal, will the Minister recommend a system of reciprocity?

Written reply by the Senior Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Minister of Finance is aware that Guyanese travelling to Paramaribo from Nickerie have to lodge 100 guilders at Nickerie with the Suriname Military Police and upon their return to Nickerie enroute to Springlands the Guyanese passengers would receive a refund of only 90 guilders 10 guilders remain with the Suriname authorities for paper work. This has been in place for a long time now.

- (ii) Discussions are being held with the Surinamese authorities on this matter.

QUESTION NO. 4 - WATER SUPPLY IN LEEDS/NO. 54 VILLAGE

By Mr. David Subnauth:

Will the Minister say what is being done to relieve residents in the Leeds/No. 54 Village area from their suffering from the lack of potable water, since the well at No. 53 Village ceased to function?

Written reply by the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development:

The No. 53 Well started to give problems since 1983. It was bringing up sand and mud when pumping.

The speed of pumping had to be reduced overtime to the lowest idle pumping rate so as not to bring up the sand and mud flow in the water.

This was due to some damaged casings and screens in the well. The foundation of the engines started to crack and sink overtime which lead to an eventual collapse in Sept, 1992 when the pump shaft snapped.

Presently the residents in this area are being supplied with water from the two neighbouring wells.

No. 57 well supplies water up to No. 54 village where we have stand pipes, 4 hours per day supply.

No. 47 well supplies water up to No. 50 village, 3 hours per day. (in the afternoon)

We are presently preparing to run pipelines in this area, flush the old pipes with a compressor so water could reach from both sides into the area that was being supplied by the No. 53 well.

By the end of the 1st Quarter in 1994 we will start the drilling of a new well in this area. (The World Bank Rehabilitation Project).

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BILL 1993 - Bill No. 28/1993

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate the business of banking and other financial business.

(2) MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 29/1993 published 30.12.93

The Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make certain provisions in view of the delay in the holding of elections to the City Council for Georgetown and Town Councils.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading - Deferred

ITEM 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 24/1993 - Deferred

At the request of the Senior Minister of Finance, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

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ITEM 2 - GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 23/1993 published 30.10.93,  
6.11.93 and 13.11.93 - Deferred

At the request of Dr. Moti Lall, the second reading of the following Private Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual  
Life Insurance Company Ordinance.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Before the adjournment, the Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and assistance given to him during 1993. He extended good wishes for 1994 to Members and their families, to the staff of the National Assembly and to the media.

Mr. Robert Corbin, on behalf of the People's National Congress, and the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the People's Progressive Party/Civic, thanked the Speaker and reciprocated the good wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.15 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

  
D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

30th December, 1993.

