

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 38TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE, 1994

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

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 (Absent-on leave)

*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-on leave)

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

*Non-elected Member

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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.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, 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.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 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 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
 (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 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) (Absent)

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. 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
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)
 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)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 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.
 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)

(There is one vacancy)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, C.C.H., 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

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations to Persons Honoured on 28th Anniversary of Independence

The Speaker announced that on the occasion of the twenty-eight Anniversary of Guyana's attainment of Independence, five persons associated with Parliament were honoured with National Awards:

(a) Mr. Martin Carter, who was Minister of Information from 6th June, 1967 to 12th November, 1970, was awarded the Order of Roraima, in recognition of the distinction and eminence achieved by him both nationally and internationally in the field of literature, especially poetry and for his role in the struggle for the independence of Guyana;

(b) Mr. Isahak Basir, who was a Member of the Assembly for periods - from 18th January, 1977 to March, 1991, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour, for long and outstanding service in the field of politics, and more recently in the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Guyana;

4.

- (c) Mr. Parag Sukhai, who was a Member of the Assembly from 17th July, 1978 to 24th October, 1980, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour, for long and outstanding service in the field of politics, and more recently in the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Guyana;
- (d) Dr. Clive Yolande Thomas, a Member of the National Assembly, since 24th November, 1992, was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honour, for service of an exceptionally high quality and beyond the normal call of duty in the field of education and for his role in the struggle for free and fair elections and the restoration of democracy in Guyana;
- (e) Mr. Cecil Dhurjon, S.C., Chief Parliamentary Counsel, was awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement, for his outstanding contributions in the field of law, particularly in legislative drafting.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations and best wishes to the five persons.

(ii) Congratulations to Hon. Clement Rohee on Marriage

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to the Honourable Clement Rohee, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, on his recent marriage.

(iii) Sympathy to Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan on death of his father

The Speaker announced that the Honourable Member, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, had recently lost his father. On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended deep sympathy to Mr. Ramjattan.

(iv) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members for that day's Sitting:-

Hon. Asgar Ally
Hon. Clement Rohee
Mr. Samad Baksh
Mr. Desmond Hoyte
Dr. Faith Harding.

PRESENTATION OF ~~PAPERS~~ AND REPORTS, ETC.-

- (1) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee):
Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the
motion to amend the Standing Orders to provide
for the establishment of Standing Committees.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Prime Minister:

- (i) National Environmental Action Plan.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Local Democratic Organs (Emoluments of Office-holders) (Amendment) Order 1994 (No. 21 of 1994), made under sections 9 and 50 of the Local Democratic Organs Act 1980 (No. 12 of 1980), on 22nd April, 1994, and published in the Gazette on 30th April, 1994.

(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Senior Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 1/1994 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$89,846,263, for the period ended 31st December, 1993 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Thursday, 16th June, 1994, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 7 - AIDE MEMOIRE FROM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND TEAM

Mr. Andy Gouveia asked the Senior Minister of Finance the following question:

Would the Senior Minister of Finance say why he did not lay in the National Assembly an Aide Memoire dated November 11, 1993, from an International Monetary Fund team, on the state of the economy, which had been presented to him by the leader of the team and why did he not otherwise inform the Guyanese People about the contents of the said document?

In the absence of the Senior Minister of Finance, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance gave a reply.

QUESTION NO. 8 - CONTRACT WITH WARTSILA

Mr. Hukumchand a/k Parag asked the Prime Minister the following question:

Will the Prime Minister say why the contract with the Finish Company, Wartsila, for the supply of electrical power was not laid in the National Assembly?

The Prime Minister gave a reply.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Hukumchand.

QUESTION NO. 9 - CONTRACT WITH MR. PAUL REICHLER

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl asked the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

- (i) From what date the contract with Mr. Paul Reichler, the American Lawyer who has been employed as a Government Lobbyist in the U.S.A., took effect?
- (ii) What is the financial cost associated with Mr. Reichler's contract?
- (iii) Will the Minister also explain why the contract was not tabled in the National Assembly for the information of Members and of the Guyanese public?

In the absence of the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs gave a reply:

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 10/1994**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Local Authorities (Elections) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MRS. JANE PHILLIPS-GAY, C.C.H.

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mrs. Jane Phillips-Gay, C.C.H., and pay tribute to the distinguished service which she rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to her sorrowing family and relatives.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Speaker and Members then stood and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect.

BILL - Second ReadingITEM 2 NATIONAL PARKS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994
Bill No. 9/1994 published 5.4.94

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the National Parks Commission
Act 1977.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

MOTIONSITEM 3 - CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. NELSON MANDELA, PRESIDENT OF
SOUTH AFRICA

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, moved the following motion:

Whereas the African National Congress (ANC) led by President Nelson Mandela has won an overwhelming victory in South Africa's first democratic all race elections;

8.

Conscious of the many years of struggle and sacrifice waged and endured by a large majority of the people of South Africa in an effort to rid their country of apartheid;

Remembering the thousands of comrades who have selflessly given either their lives or years of their freedom for this cause;

Recognising the astute leadership of President Nelson Mandela in the struggle against apartheid and the great personal price he has paid to obtain the freedom of his people;

Not forgetting the contributions made by other leaders and groups within and without South Africa;

Taking into account the fundamental importance of democracy for the realisation of human dignity and the fulfillment of the human potential and the just aspirations of all South Africans regardless of race, colour or creed;

Convinced that the creation of a free, just and democratic society in South Africa is essential for consolidating the hard won gains of this historic victory:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana record its overwhelming satisfaction over the glorious victory of the African National Congress in the recent elections in South Africa and request that its congratulations and best wishes be transmitted through the appropriate channels to the President and People of South Africa.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs Clarissa Riehl
Dr. Clive Y. Thomas
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
The Senior Minister of Health
Mr. Phillip Bynoe,

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

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ITEM 4 - MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GUYANA TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IMF

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana agree with the Memorandum dated 2nd April, 1994, by His Excellency the President of Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, to Mr. Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and support the views expressed therein.

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) seconded the motion.

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.58 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.31 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Thereafter, Mr. Alston Kissoon replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 5 - APPROVAL OF HOUSING POLICY

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the Housing Policy of the Government of Guyana as set out in the Paper which was laid in the Assembly on 25th March, 1994.

10.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Dr. Clive Thomas
Mr. Arthur Alexander.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.57 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, 16th June, 1994.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

2nd June, 1994.