

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 39TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA BELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 16TH 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

*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 (Absent)

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

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

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.

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

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*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent)
 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.
 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 DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/ Upper Essequibo)
 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) (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.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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. (Absent - on leave)
 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.
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, 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)

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(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) (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.

OATHS

(i) Resignation of Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira

(ii) Election of Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter from Mrs. Jennifer Ferreira, resigning her seat in the National Assembly, with effect from 1st May, 1994.

With her resignation, Mrs. Ferreira, in accordance with paragraph (1)(c) of article 156 of the Constitution, vacated her seat in the Assembly.

The Speaker stated that in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Mrs. Ferreira's name was included, i.e. the People's National Congress List, to further extract from that list, the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

He was informed that the name of Cyrilda Alandia DeJesus had been extracted and that Mrs. DeJesus was, on 13th June, 1994, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

The Speaker said that before Mrs. DeJesus could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, she would have, as required by article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Mrs. DeJesus was present, the oath was administered to her by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Extension of Good Wishes to Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended best wishes to Mrs. Jennifer Ferreira.

Mrs. Ferreira had served as a Member of the National Assembly from 24th December, 1985, to 28th August, 1992, and again from 24th November, 1992 to 30th April, 1994. She was the Government Chief Whip in the National Assembly of the last Parliament.

(ii) Congratulations and Welcome to Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mrs. Cyrilda DeJesus on her election, welcomed her back to the Assembly and extended best wishes to her.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to the following Members:

Mr. Desmond Hoyte,
Miss Anna Ally,
Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, and
Mr. Andy Gouveia.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip):

(i) Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Police Complaints Authority for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Government of Guyana Youth Policy.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Budget of Interim Management Committee of Georgetown

The Prime Minister made a Statement on the Budget of the Interim Management Committee of Georgetown and on the increases in the rents for Stalls in the Municipal Markets.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Action of Interim Management Committee of Georgetown

A request by Mr. Robert Corbin for leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the action of the Interim Management Committee of Georgetown in imposing rates and taxes, was not allowed by the Speaker as the matter did not qualify.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - Bill No. 11/1994
published 13.6.94

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal
the Drainage and Irrigation Board
(Transfer of Functions) Act 1983
and to amend the Drainage and
Irrigation Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1994

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 1/1994 and thereafter moved the following motion:

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BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in 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.

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

"RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in 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."

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 2 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994
Bill No. 10/1994 published 2.6.94

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin
Mr. David Subnauth
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader
of the House)
Mr. Arthur Alexander
Dr. Clive Thomas.

Thereafter the Prime Minister 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 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The following amendment was agreed to:-

The words 'and each such ballot paper shall be stamped by the Chief Election Officer, with the words "DISCIPLINED FORCES"' in the last four lines of subsection (2) of the new section 74E were deleted.

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly adopt the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion to amend the Standing Orders to provide for the establishment of Standing Committees, which was laid in the Assembly on 2nd June, 1994.

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ITEM 4 - AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be amended by the insertion of the following as Standing Order No. 70A:-

"70(A). Standing Committees

(1) The Committee of Selection may establish and appoint as many Standing Committees as it considers necessary.

(2) A Standing Committee shall consist of such Members of the Assembly and such other persons as the Committee of Selection shall determine and shall appoint.

(3) The constitution of, procedure in and other matters concerning, Standing Committees shall be as provided for in respect of Select Committees of the Assembly."

Mr. Arthur Alexander spoke to the motion.

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) replied.

The motion was then put and carried with the correction of the following typographical error:-

Deletion of the words "and such other persons" from paragraph (2) of the new Standing Order No. 70A.

ITEM 5 - APPROVAL OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the National Environmental Action Plan as set out in the Paper which was laid in the Assembly on 2nd June, 1994.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Dr. Patrick McKenzie
Dr. Clive Thomas
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
The Senior Minister of Health
Mr. Winston Murray.

Thereafter the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.54 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.O. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

16th June, 1994.