

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 46TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 1995

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

* 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

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

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P. (Absent)
 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)
 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)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) Peoples'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.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, 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. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) New Year Greetings

As that was the first Sitting for the year, the Speaker welcomed Members and extended best wishes to them for 1995.

(ii) Leave

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

Mr. Desmond Hoyte, for that sitting,

Mr. David Subnauth, for that sitting,

Mr. Reynold David, for that sitting,

Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, up to 31st January,

Mr. Phillip Bynoe, up to 15th February,

and

Miss Joan Richards, up to 25th February.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC

By the Senior Minister of Finance:

The following Agreements, in accordance with section 3(6) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08:-

(i) Development Credit Agreement (Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project), dated April 8, 1993 (Credit Number 2477 GUA)

(Circulated)

(ii) Development Credit Agreement (Public Administration Project), dated April 8, 1993 (Credit Number 2480 GUA).

(Circulated)

(iii) Development Credit Agreement (Sugar Industry Restructuring and Privatization Project), dated September 29, 1993 (Credit Number 2545 GUA).

(Circulated)

(iv) Fourth Agreement Amending Development Credit Agreement (Second Structural Adjustment Credit), dated June 21, 1993 (Credit Number 2168 GUA).

(Circulated)

(v) Loan Contract (Main Road Rehabilitation Project), dated March 5, 1993 (Loan No. 890/SF-GY)

(Circulated)

(vi) Finance Contract (Guyana Bauxite Rehabilitation Project), dated 4th February, 1993.

(Circulated)

(vii) Bilateral Agreement on the consolidation of the external debt service obligations to the Netherlands creditors.

(Circulated)

(viii) Exchange of letters dated 8th October, 1993, between the Government of Guyana and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for the cancellation of the aid (ODA) debts and debt rescheduling

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BILL 1993 - Bill No. 28/1993
published 12.11.94

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King
Dr. Clive Thomas
Mr. Manzoor Nadir,

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

In Committee

The references to the year "1994" were corrected to read "1995".

Clauses 1 to 13 were passed as printed.

Clause 14

Subsection (3)(b) of Clause 14 was amended to read as follows:

"(b) to any person which is affiliated with the officer or director, in which the officer or director owns equity capital or otherwise has a beneficial interest of ten percent or more, or of which the officer or director is a guarantor;"

Clause 14 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 15 to 65 were passed as printed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - GOVERNMENT'S VISION OF DEVELOPMENT

At the request of Mr. Donald Ramotar, and with the leave of the Assembly, the following motion was deferred.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly support the proposals in the State Paper on Guyana: The Government's vision of Development, by His Excellency the President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, which was laid in the National Assembly on 7th March, 1994.

ITEM 3 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, at a Special Meeting in October 1992, considered the recommendations of the West Indian Commission on the Establishment of an Association of Caribbean States;

AND WHEREAS the Conference agreed that the Caribbean Community initiate proposals for the establishment of the Association directed to advancing both economic integration and functional co-operation with the other island states of the Caribbean, Suriname, the states of Central America and the other Latin American countries of the Caribbean littoral;

AND WHEREAS a Preparatory Meeting at Ministerial level, held in June 1994 in Caracas, Venezuela, approved the Final Act of the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana, on July 24, 1994, signed the Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia;

BE IT RESOLVED:

7.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.34 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 4 - TRADE UNION RECOGNITION BILL 1994 - Bill No. 19/1994
published 26.11.94

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the improvement and promotion of industrial relations by the establishment of procedures for the certifying of trade unions as recognised majority unions and for matters connected therewith.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Arthur Alexander

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mrs. Janet Jagan

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Komal Chand.

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

COMMITTAL OF BILL

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Bill was committed to a Select Committee.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Before the Adjournment, the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), extended good wishes for 1995 to the Speaker, the Members, the Staff of the National Assembly and the Media and their families.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie, on behalf of the People's National Congress, and Dr. Clive Thomas, on behalf of the Working People's Alliance and The United Force, also joined in extending good wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.37 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.

19th January, 1995