

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 57TH 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, 4TH MAY, 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 (Absent)

* 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 (Absent)

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

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 - on leave)
 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)
 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)
 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 - 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. (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.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahmad, 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.
 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. Rupert Roopnaraine, 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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

The Speaker stated that with the resignation of Dr. Clive Thomas with effect from 3rd April, 1995, a seat in the National Assembly became vacant.

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 Dr. Thomas's name was included, i.e. the Working People's Alliance List, to further extract from that list, the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

The Speaker announced that he had been informed that the name of Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine had been extracted and that Dr. Roopnaraine was, on 4th April, 1995, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

The Speaker stated that before Dr. Roopnaraine could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he would have, as required by article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Dr. Roopnaraine was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Extension of Good Wishes to Dr. Clive Thomas, C.C.H.**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended best wishes to Dr. Clive Thomas, following his resignation from the National Assembly.

(ii) **Congratulations and Welcome to Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.**

The Speaker also, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine on his election and welcomed him back to the Assembly. He also extended best wishes to Dr. Roopnaraine.

(iii) **Leave**

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

Mr. Shaik Baksh,
Miss Anna Ally,
Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, and
Mr. Phillip Bynoe

(iv) **Sympathy to Mr. Ramrattan on the death of his wife**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended sympathy to Mr. Ramrattan on the recent death of his wife.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security:

State Paper on Conventions Nos. 167, 168 and 169 and Recommendations Nos. 175 and 176, which were adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 75th and 76th Sessions held in June 1988, and June, 1989, respectively.

(Circulated)

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4/11/89

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 6/1995
published 29.4.95

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 amend
the Banking Laws Act 1991.

- (2) DEALERS IN FOREIGN CURRENCY (LICENSING) (AMENDMENT) BILL -
1995 - Bill No. 7/1995 published on 29.4.95

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 amend the
Dealers in Foreign Currency
(Licensing) Act.

- (3) CO-OPERATIVE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995
Bill No. 8/1995 published 29.4.95

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 amend the law
relating to the Co-operative Financial
Institutions Act and to provide for
matters connected therewith.

(4) BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1995 - Bill No. 9/1995 published 29.4.95

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 revise
and amend the law relating to the
Bank of Guyana and to provide for
related and consequential matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - AFFIRMATION OF THE GUYANA CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (DISSOLUTION AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ORDER 1995 (No. 2)

The Senior Minister of Finance moved-

(i) the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 56 of the Co-operative Financial Institutions Act, Chapter 75:01, affirm the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (Dissolution and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1995 (No. 2 of 1995), which was made on 8th February, 1995 and published in the Gazette on 11th February, 1995,

and

(ii) the following amendments to the motion:

After the words "11th February, 1995" at the end of the motion, add the following:

",subject to the following amendments to the Order:

Clause 2

For "1st April 1995", substitute "1st June, 1995".

Clause 3

For "31st May, 1995", substitute "31st July, 1995".

Clause 8

For "31st May, 1995", substitute "31st July, 1995".

The following Members spoke to the amended motion:

Dr. Patrick McKenzie

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion as amended was then put and carried.

BILL

ITEM 2 - MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1994 - Bill No. 20/1994 published 3.12.94

Second Reading

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to reform the law relating to medical terminations of pregnancies, to enhance the dignity and sanctity of life by reducing the incidence of induced abortion, to enhance the attainment of safe motherhood by eliminating deaths and complications due to unsafe abortion, to prescribe those circumstances in which any woman who voluntarily and in good faith wishes to terminate her pregnancy may lawfully so and to provide for matters connected therewith.

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 4.32 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1994

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill 1994.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl continued and concluded her speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services
and Social Security

Mr. Idris Deen

The Prime Minister

Mr. Winston Murray

Dr. Hughley Hanoman

The Senior Minister of Education and Cultural
Development

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Andy Gouveia

Mr. Donald Ramotar

Mr. Hukumchand

Mr. David Subnauth

Dr. Moti Lall

Mr. Reynold David

Mrs. Una James.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Health replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following
division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DECLINED TO VOTE</u>
Dr. Roopnaraine	Mr. Nadir	Mr. Bernard
Dr. King	Mr. Williams	Mr. Gilbert
Mr. Murray	Mr. Hyman	Dr. Hanoman
Mr. Ramratan	Mr. Peters	Mr. Persaud
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Fredericks	
Mr. LaCruz	Miss Richards	
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Hukumchand	
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Gouveia	
Mr. Baksh	Mr. Tyndall	
Mr. Bacchus	Mrs. DeJesus	
Mr. Da'Silva	Mr. Deen	
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. David	
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Subnauth	
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Ng-See-Quan	
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Alexander	
Mr. Ramjattan	Miss Persico	
Dr. Lall	Mr. Barrow	
Mrs. James	Mrs. Riehl	
Mr. Edwards	Dr. McKenzie	
Mr. Chand	Mr. Paul	
Mr. Husman Alli	Mr. Kissoon	
Mr. Fazil Ali		
Mr. Belgrave		
Mr. Nagamootoo		
Mrs. Chandarpal		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Chan		
Miss Teixeira		
Mr. Rohee		
Mr. Nokta		
Mr. Mohamed		
Mr. Hinds		

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed with the following correction:-
For the year "1994", the year "1995" was substituted.

Clauses 2 to 16 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Health, the Bill was read the third time and passed as corrected.

ADJOURNMENT

At .06 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.

4th May, 1995.